



GOURMET FOOD SUPPLIER

BOOK 04

Cat Who Can Cook

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Gourmet Food Supplier

(美食供应商)

by

Cat Who Can Cook

(会做饭的猫)

Synopsis

There exists a strange little stall in the far east that has repeatedly rejected the designation of 3 Michelin Stars.

The prices there are high with a bowl of Egg Fried Rice with soup costing 288RMB. Oh, I forget that it also comes with a plate of pickled cabbage, but even so, many people continue to queue up for it.

That place doesn't accept reservations, only people who line up on the spot are accepted, countless people hire others to queue up for them, and of course, parking isn't provided.

The place has terrible service, and actually asks their customers to bus their own tables, oh and also wipe the table. Oh god! The boss of this place is simply mad."

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Chapter 301: Pitfall of A BBQ Master

Yuan Zhou uttered smilingly, "Ok, I'm going to receive the rewards, all of them."

"By the way, may I trouble you to help me increase it to the master level." Yuan Zhou wouldn't forget the system's promise.

The system displayed, "The reward has been released. Host, you can check and receive it."

[BBQ mission] To complete a BBQ independently

(Mission tips: the word 'independently' naturally means you do that without being reminded. Congratulations, host.) [Mission reward] the title of BBQ Master, Master Grade.

(Reward tips: An unexpected reward is surprising, isn't it?)

[Special reward] Two standing positions are hereby offered. Two people are allowed to stand in the restaurant and have meals.

After checking the reward, Yuan Zhou got very happy.

"System, you are truly a system that keeps its promise." Yuan Zhou was never stingy with his compliments.

"Though the reward isn't the seats, two positions for standing and eating are likewise not bad." Looking at the enclosed place close to the sergestes wall, Yuan Zhou felt quite satisfied.

He had longed for more positions for a long time, but this kind of mission had never appeared before. Now that he could get this very reward after receiving the title, it was really satisfactory.

He just didn't know what pitfall this title would bring. Thinking that, Yuan Zhou became a little perturbed.

"System, isn't there any requirement for the title this time?" Yuan Zhou looked at the reward and didn't find anything.

The system displayed, "As a BBQ master who has the title of

mastery, how could you keep it from your customers?"

"Host, please open the restaurant for BBQ after 12:00 midnight for at least five times per month."

"Actually, it's pretty good for me to just use it to amuse myself." When Yuan Zhou saw the system's answer, he had a feeling of "It's really as I imagined."

BBQ at midnight and five times per month? It seemed that the system wanted to deprive him of his sleeping time.

"System, I'm only a child and still growing physically. Can the time be made earlier slightly?" Yuan Zhou inquired.

However, the system disappeared again as usual after it finished the title issue and hence didn't answer Yuan Zhou anymore.

It was raining lightly outside. The atmosphere was wonderful, but Yuan Zhou had complicated emotions.

One was the increase of the positions that was being rebuilt and the other was the matter of midnight BBQ.

"Oh, yeah. I'm so smart. I can serve BBQ when it rains." Yuan Zhou patted on his forehead and instantly thought of a great idea.

Right, the rain brought Yuan Zhou with the inspiration.

It would inevitably be a rush to make BBQ after the pub time ends.

If it were on rainy days, he could nevertheless prepare it slowly. Therefore, Yuan Zhou planned to make the BBQ when the pub wasn't open for business on rainy days.

As for the publicity, he had already been used to making no publicity.

While Yuan Zhou finally decided the business time of the BBQ on this side, Ma Jia who had just finished film shooting in the rain just arrived at the hotel on the other side.

"Sister Jia, please hurry up and go to change your clothes." Xiao Wu took out the toiletries and urged her.

"Humm. You, too." After a nod, Ma Jia took the toiletries and went into the bathroom.

After a while, Ma Jia washed the rain on her off and went to the computer with her hair untied. As usual, she was prepared to update the microblog.

It was also a method of communications between Ma Jia and her fans.

Suddenly, there passed a sound of "grumble" from her belly.

"It's useless to grumble at this time of day. It's so late, so I can't meet your expectations." Ma Jia stroked her belly and was a little helpless.

Looking at the microblog to be written, she suddenly thought of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

[Yesterday I went to a nameless tiny restaurant beside the shooting site for meal. The craftsmanship of the boss is definitely of top grade. However, I don't suggest you go there as the dishes are extraordinarily expensive. But honestly speaking, his craftsmanship well deserves the price.]

After that, Ma Jia added a mischievous smile at the end.

Although she wasn't a hot property, she still got a lot of fans because of her solid acting skills.

As soon as the microblog was updated, her fans gave likes and many left comments below.

[Jia Jia is again playing cute. Come to Shanghai. The private home cuisines over here are super yummy. Let me treat you] from Mint Noodles.

[Sweet dishes are not much to be particular about. Come to my home Xin Jiang. You can eat as much roasted mutton as you like]

from Ya Ke Ma Fei Di.

[Ho Ho. Didn't you read the microblog carefully? Sister Jia means that she's going to eat soil because of her thin wallet and thus hope we can support her new film] from Sura That Likes Eating Candy.

[Speechless. Sister Jia is obviously recommending nice food to us without telling us the name of the restaurant] from You Feng Third Launching an Attack.

[Never mind. Sister Jia, tell us the name of the restaurant so I can go there for a taste personally] from Hai Hun Yi.

[Is that the rich guy Yi Yi? Bring me along] from Second Fellow Brother Back.

[I'm also a foodie. Please bring me for a meal, too, Yi Yi] from Wen Bu Shao.

Then the comments went forward toward various treats.

Cyberspace never lacked exploitation, even if Ma Jia didn't tell them where she had the meal.

However, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was much too famous in the area of Taoxi Road. Therefore, it was eventually found out in no more than two hours.

Then the comments blew up.

The fans organized the group first. For the restaurant that their idols had been to, they would definitely go for a try. Even if they didn't have any opportunity, they would still create the opportunity by themselves and go.

For others that had been there before, they tried to underplay their experiences and brought it out.

[A regular customer of Boss Yuan's restaurant reports to everyone that the dishes are quite delicious. I have never expected that Jia Jia also likes them] from Hero.

[I like Clear Broth Noodle Soup. I just want one bowl of the noodle right now.] It was the one that acted dumbly while others were curious about what exactly the dishes were like.

[If you wanna have a midnight snack, you'd better drink some liquor. I once had the honor to drink the bamboo liquor of Boss Yuan.] from a person who acted even more. He directly talked about drinking the liquor.

After all, the amount of the liquor was really little and few people had tasted it before.

The microblog issue was neither significant nor minor. After knowing it, however, Meng Meng, as a streamer, also participated in it.

[The rules in Boss Yuan's restaurant are the second cutest thing. Of course, if he allows me to break any of them, I would say they are the cutest one] from Meng Meng.

[They are indeed not cheap, but they are good enough to deserve the price] Right after her was Wu Hai, who was idle.

There were so many compliments that others' curiosity were instantly stimulated.

With all these spotlights, the attention on Yuan Zhou's restaurant went up by a large margin.

If there were a data diagram, the attention on Yuan Zhou's restaurant definitely soared rapidly over the night.

Yuan Zhou had been proud of his intelligence until he heard something scratching the door.

"Tsk. This little thing must have grown smarter than human being." Yuan Zhou looked at the back door speechlessly.

He then uttered, "I'm going to open the door right now."

Once he said that, it instantly became silent outside the door.

"It's truly a Maltese that had lived hundreds of years." Yuan Zhou

was rather speechless about it.

When there was no sound outside, Yuan Zhou began to take out the noodles and prepared to cook a bowl of Clear Broth Noodle Soup.

That' right. It was the dog Broth that scratched the door outside. Ever since it ran after the arrogant man and bit him, it came to scratch the door before 12:00 am every day, reminding Yuan Zhou that it was the time to feed it the broth.

When Yuan Zhou wasn't resting, the system didn't actually prevent him from the sound outside. Therefore, Yuan Zhou could hear the sound very easily with his sharp hearing.

For the first time, Yuan Zhou thought it a coincidence, but after the second and third time, it definitely wasn't one anymore. It was just that the dog had basically reached a higher level of intelligence.

The Clear Broth Noodle Soup or other ingredients in Yuan Zhou's restaurant were natural and fresh as well as healthy and delicious. They all had very high nutritive value.

Just in a little while, the noodles were cooked by Yuan Zhou.

He took the bowl to the back door and opened the door after a sound of "Hua La".

"You can drink it after I eat up the noodles. It's very expensive." Yuan Zhou looked at Broth that was seated at the door.

Beside it was its dog bowl provided by Yuan Zhou.

Having heard Yuan Zhou's word, Broth really waited there still. It laid prone on the ground and stared at Yuan Zhou with its black eyes.

"You have eaten a lot in daytime, so you can't eat much at night," Yuan Zhou said primly.

There were still some chewy noodles left in the dog's bowl in the

end. No one knew why a dog would like eating the noodles so much.

...

Chapter 302: The Second Invitation Card

After Yuan Zhou fed Broth, he cleaned the kitchen and then went upstairs to wash up and have a rest, not knowing about the heated discussions on the microblog.

Of course, Yuan Zhou's own microblog was also referred to, many times.

He just ignored everything and fell asleep securely. It was a sound sleep.

On the next morning, Yuan Zhou got up and finished his exercises very soon. After that, he prepared the Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao, which had never been provided for breakfast. That was really surprising.

"Boss Yuan, you have become a hot topic." It was the first sentence that Wu Hai said after he entered the restaurant.

Yuan Zhou, nevertheless, just took a curious look at Wu Hai and didn't say anything.

Shen Min uttered, "Mr. Wu, we provide the newly developed Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao today. Would you like to have a try?"

Different from Zhou Jia's kindness, Shen Min was very courteous to every single customer.

Umm, likewise, she showed a lot of respect to Yuan Zhou himself.

Having originally intended to gossip on something, Wu Hai was instantly attracted by the new dish.

"My decision seems to be quite correct," Wu Hai stroked his two small tufts of mustaches proudly.

"Get me one bowl of that quickly." Immediately, he forgot the gossip and directly began to order the dish.

"Ok. One moment, please. It'll be served in no time." Shen Min answered after a nod.

Having already heard Wu Hai, Yuan Zhou poured the prepared Yuanxiao into the cooking pot.

"Aren't they Tangyuan?" Looking at the pearl-like Yuanxiao, Wu Hai asked.

"They are different," Yuan Zhou said decidedly.

"Boss Yuan, your restaurant is going to be very very popular." Dressed in cute Mickey Mouse hot pants and a light yellow printed shirt, Meng Meng walked into the restaurant, taking occasional hops. She hadn't been here for a long time.

"Really?" Yuan Zhou showed some respect to her by a simple answer. Then, he continued scooping up the Yuanxiao in the cooking pot precisely.

"Don't you want to know why?" With a big smile, Meng Meng revealed a look of "Come to ask me now" on her face.

"No, I don't. Somebody will tell me." Yuan Zhou set down the dish of Sweet Osmanthus Sandwiched Yuanxiao ordered by Wu Hai and answered calmly.

"I won't tell you unless you come and beg me," Wu Hai cautiously dragged the bowl closer to him and then said.

"Boss Yuan, if you can treat me to the dish, I can tell you about it," Meng Meng said with a mischievous smile.

"No need. It's definitely because of Ma Jia." Suddenly, Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"Gee? Boss Yuan, how do you know? Did you check the microblog?" Meng Meng asked with puzzlement.

"No. Ma Jia has been here once." Yuan Zhou knew that Ma Jia was an actress who actually enjoyed the fame with excellent acting skills even if she wasn't so popular.

Anyhow, she still had great influence among her fans. As long as she mentioned Yuan Zhou, it was good for his restaurant.

Even Ma Jia, who personally wrote that microblog, didn't expect the effect of her words.

"It turns out that the nameless restaurant enjoys so much popularity. Yuan Zhou's Restaurant." After she got up in the morning and saw the heated comments on her microblog, Ma Jia heaved a sigh.

"Sister Jia, what's the matter?" Xiao Wu looked at Ma Jia who had a strange expression and asked gently.

"Nothing. Let's go," having turned off the computer, Ma Jia turned around and said.

"Humm." Xiao Wu asked no more and opened the door after a nod.

The breakfast time soon passed. There weren't really many increased new customers, for sure.

Although Yuan Zhou's restaurant was right in Chengdu, they nevertheless needed some time to get organized.

However, what Yuan Zhou was most interested in now was the invitation card that he had newly obtained. Of course, he didn't relax on experimenting with new dishes, either.

He practiced cooking a new dish every day during break time and then spent the rest of the time on sculpting.

This had all become a habit. Having just finished making a new dish, Yuan Zhou wrote another invitation card.

In just a little while, there appeared an image of a woman on the invitation card.

The figure on the card looked pretty and comely. With her long hair tied into a ponytail, the vivid eyes and the ruddy lips, she looked like the top beauty of a school.

Yes, she was Yuan Zhou's classmate in high school and was really the beauty of her class.

"Li Jing, long time no see." Looking at the little figure on the card, Yuan Zhou spoke with a bland tone. Meanwhile, there was slight gingerliness and some expectations.

"So this is the second card. After this one, there's only one left now, so I have to make a good plan on how to use it," Yuan Zhou looked at the solely remaining blank card and said affirmatively.

He must use this kind of incredible capabilities to get himself some benefits.

While it was calm and tranquil at Yuan Zhou's side, it was nevertheless violent and stormy at Wu Hai's side.

"Wu Hai, open the door. Do you think you can weather through the dilemma by hiding in your room? Get out of the room in ten minutes, otherwise you have to take charge of the consequences by yourself." Wu Lin slapped on the door of Wu Hai's studio violently, which emitted an earsplitting sound. The violent actions really couldn't match her beautiful appearance.

"Forget it. Xiao Hai might be painting inside," Zheng Jiawei stopped Wu Lin from slapping on the door and said helplessly.

"Only you are still believing him. As I said just now, if he doesn't open the door in ten minutes, he'll never be able to eat dishes of that restaurant again." Wu Lin said that with a resolute and decisive manner and a loud voice in order that Wu Hai could hear her.

"Anyhow, Xiao Hai is your elder brother." Zheng Jiawei felt both irritated and funny. He was able neither to cry nor to laugh.

"And you are my boyfriend." Wu Lin answered immediately without any hesitation.

"Yes, sure. So you listen to me. Let me talk to him." Zheng Jiawei nodded the head neatly and then said that.

"You can talk. But you have to wait until I dismantle the door. And you can't stop me." Wu Lin compromised slightly, but she felt that rebuilding some prestige was the priority now.

"Ok. Let me call the repair shop first. You can continue." After a nod, Zheng Jiawei went a few steps away and made a call.

Nevertheless, Wu Lin first said to the inside of the room with a murderous tone, "If you can't find a good reason later, you'll end up like the door."

After saying that, she kicked the door heavily with her long leg and then the door was broken off after a sound of "Peng". Her actions were clean, without any sloppiness.

It seemed as if she had specially practiced this action for many times. No one was clear how many doors had been broken under her sturdy and forceful leg.

With a tacit understanding, Zheng Jiawei came up and cared about her first, "How's your leg?"

"You ought to ask the door." The black boots on Wu Lin's feet were still extraordinarily glossy and appeared safe and sound.

"That's good then. The guy who repairs the door will arrive after four hours." When Zheng Jiawei found there wasn't even any red bruise on Wu Lin's leg, he said securely.

"Xiao Hai, why didn't you tell me that you wanted to redeem the painting work?" Zheng Jiawei was a little sorrowful.

"I changed its name into People Passing by A Small Restaurant." With lingering fear, Wu Hai looked at the broken solid wood door and talked with an unprecedentedly patient tone.

He spoke as if he were facing Yuan Zhou.

"Xiao Hai, I never stop you from doing anything. Why didn't you just tell me?" Zheng Jiawei wasn't actually blaming Wu Hai for redeeming the painting work.

Even if he had apologized for more than one hour sincerely to the buyer for this matter.

What he cared more was just that Wu Hai did that secretly, giving him the feeling that he wasn't trusted.

"You were busy with the exhibition and I happened to have time." Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches unnaturally and appeared to be slightly embarrassed.

"Elder Brother, shall we go home and have dinner together this evening?" Wu Lin suddenly said with a big smile.

The threat contained in the smile was recognized even by Zheng Jiawei.

"I will tell you the truth," Wu Hai answered wisely.

After all, those who suit their actions to the time are wise. Therefore, Wu Hai said cleanly, "I also know you would agree. I just didn't want you to worry about that. I hung that painting work in the restaurant over there."

Zheng Jiawei nodded the head. With their tacit understanding between each other, he naturally knew what Wu Hai meant.

Provided that Zheng Jiawei knew that at the beginning, he would definitely worry about that. Even if Wu Hai told him the reason, he would still be worried.

As a relative, a friend and a broker, he would anyhow worry about him. Now that he saw Wu Hai redeem the painting work and do not run into any problems, he wouldn't worry about him anymore.

This was exactly Wu Hai's logic. Take action first and then tell...

Chapter 303: Li Jing

Zheng Jiawei fell silent at that moment.

"Brother, you know Jiawei definitely won't refuse your request," Wu Lin said discontentedly.

"Umm, I got it." Wu Hai nodded his head.

"All right. It is fine, Lin Lin." Zheng Jiawei looked at Wu Lin with a serious expression.

"Ok. It's your turn now." Wu Lin shrugged and indicated that she wouldn't participate anymore.

"Umm." Zheng Jiawei nodded his head and then turned back to Wu Hai.

"Don't look at me like that. I know what you mean. Let's have a drink tonight." Wu Hai revealed a helpless expression. It was considered to be a compromise to treat them to the liquor.

"Good. I'm going to wait for the treat." After a nod, Zheng Jiawei's expression finally recovered from the previous frustrated one.

"Wait. I haven't got the red ball." Suddenly, Wu Hai remembered that he hadn't got the red ball for the liquor.

"Brother, we can have dinner together." Seeing them reach an agreement, Wu Lin revealed a smile and said smilingly.

"Sorry, you eat so much that I am unable to support you." Wu Hai gave a look of contempt at Wu Lin and then said without any hesitation.

"I don't need you to support me now. Jiawei will do," Wu Lin answered with a bashful expression.

"Girls always love their boyfriends more than brother." Wu Hai shook the head and revealed a manner of "Public morality is not what is used to be."

"Brother, you really should find a girlfriend." Wu Lin directly used the most powerful weapon. She said meaningfully.

"It's better for us to discuss what to eat this evening." Wu Hai changed the subject wittily.

Having discussed about the dishes for a whole afternoon, Wu Hai ordered almost all dishes on the menu of Yuan Zhou's restaurant when he brought the other two people there.

Likewise, Yuan Zhou finally witnessed what "eating too much" meant.

With a glance at the bowls and plates in front of Wu Lin, Yuan Zhou understood that. As they had ordered so many dishes, Zhou Jia became like a diligent bees, carrying around the plates of food continuously.

The key point was that Wu Lin didn't forget to talk while eating.

"No wonder you like to come here every day, brother. The dishes are really so delicious. What I ate before was simply like the pig feed. Little sister, please get me another serving of the pig knuckle." Wu Lin swallowed up the Jinling Grass in a gulp and began to order other dishes again.

"The dishes here aren't allowed to be ordered twice," Wu Hai told his sister coldly before Zhou Jia answered her.

"So many annoying rules. Forget it. Then get me a dish that I haven't tasted before, a serving of Phoenix Tai Prawns, please." Wu Lin mumbled a few words and then ordered another dish.

"Even if you are my younger sister, I still feel quite surprised. You can even challenge against Luffy of One Piece on that aspect. Tsk-tsk." Wu Hai was very surprised at her sister and meanwhile felt sorrowful for his wallet.

"It's a blessing to be able to eat much," Wu Lin answered squarely.

"Yeah, it's pretty good. Lin Lin, you are just so slim." There was a pampering expression on Zheng Jiawei's face.

"It must be hard for you, bro." Wu Hai patted on Zheng Jiawei's shoulder sympathetically.

"Not really. Lin Lin is a good girl." Zheng Jiawei revealed a sweet expression.

"Tsk. This is really a dazzling flaunt." Wu Hai turned his head and kept his sight away from the two lovers.

This meal lasted for a very long time. After contentedly stuffing herself, Wu Lin was dragged away by Zheng Jiawei in the end for fear that she would be too full.

As a result, Yuan Zhou naturally had another female fan who was obsessed with his superb craftsmanship.

Three days later...

Seventy two hours passed in a flash. Several days ago, Yuan Zhou had been slightly expectant, but when it went to that day, he contrarily didn't have the same emotion.

Instead, he just felt it to be a natural occurrence and started to prepare the dishes for lunch as usual.

"A Jing, why do you suddenly want to come here for a meal?" A lively female voice passed from the side street.

"The dishes served there are said to be yummy. Besides, it's even awarded with the title of the Most Anticipated Restaurant. It's really not bad to savor the dishes before I leave." A melodious female voice with a hint of expectation answered the other girl.

"Ok, fine. Luckily, it's the last time." The lively female voice revealed some helplessness.

Of the two girls, the one who was called A Jing was naturally Li Jing whom Yuan Zhou had invited and the other was her intimate friend.

Li Jing was dressed simply in sportswear when she walked into the restaurant. With a ponytail, she appeared to be as youthful and beautiful as before. If anybody said she was a senior school student, others would believe that.

Moreover, those who looked good in sportswear were said to have slim figures. From that perspective, Li Jing's figure was also quite good.

The other girl beside her was really her intimate friend, but Yuan Zhou didn't know her.

She was wearing a business suit skirt and had a short curled hair and moreover appeared rather adorable, yet had a firm and calm voice.

"What do you two want to eat?" Yuan Zhou went up and asked as usual.

"Do you have a menu?" With her expression remaining the same, Li Jing didn't recognize that it was her classmate.

Even if it was her classmate.

Since they graduated from the senior school, it had been six years and Yuan Zhou had also matured and became more confident, obtaining some charms of an adult man.

For a classmate that had not much contact, Li Jing naturally couldn't recognize him.

When Yuan Zhou turned around for the menu, she even tease her intimate friend.

"Yuan Er, this is your favorite style. An uncle-style man that can also cook." Li Jing lowered her voice and joked with her friend.

Even if she spoke in a very low voice, all that she said was captured by Yuan Zhou easily.

Instead of getting angry with her, Yuan Zhou nevertheless felt it to be rather familiar when he heard that.

During the senior school, Li Jing was exactly like that. She was a lively girl and also studied well. Besides that, she liked joking with others and doing sports, therefore she had lots of friends.

"Here's the menu for you two." Yuan Zhou adjusted his expressions and handed the menu to them.

"Wow! It's so expensive. Yuan Er, you pay for your dishes yourself," Li Jing said with an exaggerated expression.

"No. It's the last meal we are having together. Of course, you have to pay for me." With a straight face, Yuan Er appeared rather solemn.

Li Jing knitted her brows mischievously and revealed a teasing expression on her pale face.

"Forget it. It seems even Yuan Er is going to take advantage of me." Li Jing appeared quite sorrowful.

"A serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup and Jinling Grass." Yuan Er just ignored Li Jing deftly and directly ordered the dishes.

"Well, let me order my dishes. A serving of Dongpo Pig Knuckle and Egg Fried Rice Set." Li Jing still loved to eat meat like she did in the senior school.

While she loved eating the meat, she wasn't fat at all. Looking at the well-proportioned figure of Li Jing, Yuan Zhou heaved a sigh and thought that.

"Alright. One moment, please. Zhou Jia, give them the price." Having slightly nodded the head to both girls, Yuan Zhou instructed Zhou Jia who was waiting at the side. Sometimes, Yuan Zhou indeed came out to take order by himself, therefore other customers including even Zhou Jia didn't feel it strange at all.

When Yuan Zhou was turning around to the kitchen, a new message appeared on Li Jing's phone which she put on the table.

[Jing, have dinner together this evening. I...] The message was

from a phone number without a name.

The message wasn't completely shown and Yuan Zhou could only saw the few words.

While Yuan Zhou was back in the kitchen and preparing the dishes, Li Jing and Yuan Er chatted.

"A Jing, be careful on the way back home alone and do take care of yourself." Yuan Er was a little worried about her.

"Never mind. I'm just going back to my hometown." Li Jing did not seem to be worried.

"Why did you order a flight that takes off so late and didn't arrange for anybody to send and pick you up? Let's do this. I will let my boyfriend send you to the airport." The more she thought, the more she got worried. Hence, Yuan Er directly said that.

"Come on. I don't want to bother your intimate time together, otherwise your boyfriend would hate me." Li Jing made a gesture of cross and refused straightforwardly.

"You are still so obstinate," Yuan Er said helplessly.

Luckily, Li Jing was going back home and the destination was a familiar place. If it was an unfamiliar place, Yuan Er would have already stopped her from ordering the flight that took off at 10:00 p.m.

Hearing their conversation at the side, Yuan Zhou suddenly got bewildered. Did this former charming princess of his have a boyfriend?

In the senior school, Yuan Zhou knew everything about Li Jing. He knew that she liked biting the popsicle from the lower part and that she liked to go to Grandma Li's Noodle Restaurant the most. He even knew the several particular days when she felt irritable every month.

But now, he knew nothing about her, even if he had known so

much before.

Chapter 304: A New Reason to Ask For Leave

Yuan Zhou heaved a sigh dumbly in the heart and let his thoughts wander freely for a while. After that, he stopped the random thoughts and started to prepare the dishes earnestly.

After a short moment, the dishes ordered by Li Jing and her intimate friend Yuan Er were done.

It was also Yuan Zhou himself who carried the dishes to them, this time.

"Here are the dishes for you two. Please enjoy." Yuan Zhou set down the dishes and said courteously as usual, but not gently at all.

"Wow. Yuan Er, see? This cook is so manly." Seeing Yuan Zhou turn around, Li Jing said at Yuan Er's ear secretly.

Her tone was filled with teasing.

"A Jing! Why are you talking nonsense, again?" Yuan Er pinched Li Jing lightly, discontentedly.

"He's really handsome and seems a little familiar, as if I knew him before." Li Jing was a little puzzled.

"Stop it, please. So much food cannot even get your mouth stuffed? Remember, we still have something to do after the meal. Haven't you been looking forward to the dishes for a long time?" Yuan Er said while pointing at the delicious dishes on the table.

"Ok, ok. Let's hurry then. I'm quite expectant." Li Jing turned her attention back to the dining table and became expectant of the delicacies.

"Humm Humm. Let's eat." Yuan Er nodded the head.

After that, they started to eat.

The first dish that Li Jing started to eat was naturally the Egg

Fried Rice Set.

"There's surprisingly no egg and not even the chopped green onions, yet the color is golden yellow. Is it really that delicious as described?" Li Jing was a little puzzled. Having searched for the place so hard, however, she would definitely give it a try.

She scooped some up with the spoon and stuffed it into her mouth.

"Yum, the taste is so good." With a twinkle in her eyes, Li Jing gasped in admiration instantly.

Then, she started to eat the dish like the wind puffing the clouds away. The same went for Yuan Er at the side.

The two beautiful girls ate the dishes cooked by Yuan Zhou quickly and appeared quite satisfied.

Meanwhile, they occasionally savored the aftertaste and heaved a sigh of admiration in a low voice.

"Yuan Er, this Dongpo Pig Knuckle is super tasty. Why don't you taste it? Don't always try vegetable dishes." Li Jing generously shared some of the dish with Yuan Er.

When girls got delicious things, they always liked to share with her friends, therefore the two girls started to feed each other.

While cooking at the side, Yuan Zhou cast his eyes on them from time to time.

There was slight distance, but his gaze contained more memories of the past. However, it didn't look like he was missing any person, but a particular period of old days.

Like other ordinary customers, Li Jing and Yuan Er left after they finished the meal. Yuan Zhou didn't speak another sentence to them.

Neither did he go to remind Li Jing that they were actually the classmates once upon a time and they knew each other.

Even if Li Jing seemed to be leaving for a faraway place and they might never meet again in future.

As a matter of fact, Yuan Zhou could have gone up to her and told her about his former affections on her. After all, the invitation card was precious. But he didn't. Li Jing might have already forgotten that she once had a classmate called Yuan Zhou who once had an unrequited love towards her.

Yet, this was just what Yuan Zhou wanted. "It's my business to like you and you don't need to know."

Just like right now, the reason why Yuan Zhou wanted to see Li Jing was actually for a farewell and a reminiscence, of which Li Jing needn't know.

After the two of them left, Yuan Zhou was lost in thought while looking at Li Jing's figure from behind her, but he recovered to the normal state in an instant.

He probably didn't really like Li Jing, but just liked the feeling of loving a girl secretly.

Having stayed calm, he finished the business hours for lunch as usual.

A moment later, Zhou Jia wiped the tables and chairs, washed the duster and hung it.

Only then did she turn around and say to Yuan Zhou who had been idling, "Boss, I'm leaving. See you in the evening."

"Humm. Goodbye." Yuan Zhou answered habitually.

"Bye." Zhou Jia nodded the head earnestly and then turned around, preparing to leave.

"Wait. You don't need to come this evening." Yuan Zhou suddenly said that.

"Ah? Why?" Zhou Jia instantly asked in surprise.

Then she began to think what she had done wrong and why Boss

Yuan suddenly told her not come to work.

Her complexion and nerves immediately became taunt.

"I mean I have something else to do this evening and the restaurant won't be open. But your salary remains the same." Seeing the shocked expression of Zhou Jia, Yuan Zhou then reacted and explained to her.

"Do I need to write the Leave Request for you?" Zhou Jia let out a sigh of relief and then asked calmly.

"No need. I can manage it myself." With a frown, Yuan Zhou thought for a while and refused her.

"Boss, I'm leaving now." Zhou Jia knew that her boss wouldn't change his decision easily, thus she left flat.

"Ok, go ahead. Don't be late tomorrow." Yuan Zhou instructed her as usual.

After Zhou Jia disappeared in his sight, Yuan Zhou went upstairs and took out a blank A4 paper and then prepared to write a reason for leave.

As a principled person who had decent moral integrity, he would always give a good reason every time he asked for leave.

"Got it. This holiday is good and I should have a rest." Yuan Zhou checked the holidays of every country on the particular day earnestly and then chose one at the first glance.

The touch of the pen point and the paper emitted a sound of "Shua Shua Shua". After that was the reason for leave that was written neat and orderly on A4 paper.

[As it's the International Reporters Day today, I decide to take half a day off to show my respect to the journalists. Furthermore, I will compensate you guys with a night BBQ, which starts at 12:00 midnight and ends at 2:00 a.m.]

The signature was naturally Yuan Zhou himself. This time, he

especially added a line at the bottom, [We reserve all the rights for the final explanation.]

Yuan Zhou had always believed that these few words were quite principled and complied with his taste very much.

"Alright. Now I have to look for someone." Looking at the Leave Request on the table contentedly, Yuan Zhou took out the phone and muttered to himself.

"Who shall I get?" Yuan Zhou checked the contacts in his phone and felt rather worried.

Due to his isolated character, Yuan Zhou didn't like interpersonal communications. Actually, he liked to have fun with himself. Therefore, there weren't many people in his contacts.

"Sun Ming is running the store, so he can't. And KFC is working now." While looking through the names in his phone, he ruled out the candidates one by one.

Then, he saw a person whom he had only contacted once, Jiang Changxi.

"Is this the phone number I kept last time because of Shen Min?" Yuan Zhou thought carefully.

Thinking of Shen Min, Yuan Zhou remembered that Jiang Changxi seemed to take the same taxi to come and leave every time. They were supposed to be familiar with each other.

Yuan Zhou hesitated for a while when he thought of the usual teasing manner of Jiang Changxi and then dialed the number.

The phone was answered soon. It was put through on the first beep.

Before Yuan Zhou said something, however, Jiang Changxi uttered first with a smiling tone.

"Such a rare visitor. Are you calling to tell me that you are prepared to try my new mattress?"

"Cough cough. I have a proper matter to ask you." Yuan Zhou tried to keep a taut face and make his voice more solemn.

"Whoops. Boss Yuan, you are not asking me to pick up a girl again, are you? It's the day time." There was an apparent teasing tone in her voice.

"No, I want to ask the taxi driver that you know well of to drive me to Meishan. I'll come back before 10:00 in the evening." In order to keep himself from being teased, he immediately brought out his purpose.

"So simple?" Jiang Changxi was a little surprised.

"Humm, yes." Yuan Zhou nodded the head subconsciously while taking the phone.

"I can help you if you don't mind me going with you?" Jiang Changxi answered without any hesitation.

"Are you also going to Meishan?" Yuan Zhou wouldn't believe that she was going there to accompany him and hence guessed.

"Yes. I have something to collect there." Jiang Changxi was fairly serious when she talked business.

"No, I don't mind. But I want to go right now." Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou didn't feel any problems with the carpool.

"Ok. We are going to your restaurant to pick you up now." Jiang Changxi straightforwardly hung up the phone after she said that.

"This woman surprisingly hangs up the phone quicker than me. Luckily, I called her." Looking at the phone that was hung off, Yuan Zhou felt rather lucky.

Since he needed to go out in no time, Yuan Zhou took the Leave Request and walked to the entrance. He first looked around and then took out the paper with glue on its back and directly pasted it on the door.

"Done." After that, Yuan Zhou pulled down the door quickly as if

he had practiced the actions again and again. After the door was shut, he said that breezily.

At the other side, Jiang Changxi called Master Bai to drive her to Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

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Chapter 305: Talkative Yuan Zhou

There were merely twenty minutes from the moment he finished calling until he got ready to go out.

"How long will my girlfriend need if she goes out in future?" Yuan Zhou was fairly curious.

He thought that while walking. He was dressed casually this time. Dressed in the clean beige casual pants and a white T-shirt, he stood at the crossing and waited for Jiang Changxi.

In a little while, a green taxi stopped in front of Yuan Zhou after a sound of "Zi".

"Whoops! You look so handsome in the suit today. Are you going home for a blind date?" Seated in the back seat, Jiang Changxi directly opened the car door at the back row and teased Yuan Zhou when she saw him.

"No. I'm dressed like that every day." Yuan Zhou said with a serious expression.

"Haw-haw. Boss Yuan is also a man of narcissism." Jiang Changxi sat backward deeper into the seat to let Yuan Zhou in.

"No. I'm just telling the truth." Yuan Zhou straightened his back upright when he got in the car.

"Ok. Take it easy. It's only a joke." Jiang Changxi looked Yuan Zhou with an amused manner.

"Humm, thank you. How much is the fare?" While the car was pulling away slowly, Yuan Zhou looked at the taximeter that was turned off and suddenly asked.

"300 RMB for a round trip. Waiting time will be charged separately." Jiang Changxi answered cleanly.

"I will have to trouble you to wait for me, Master. I'm going back in the evening," Yuan Zhou considered the places he needed to go

for a while and then said that.

"No problem. Don't worry. You are the friend of Jiang Changxi and I will definitely give you a good price." While Master Bai was waiting for the green light, he turned the head and said to Yuan Zhou smilingly.

"Sorry to be a bother," Yuan Zhou answered courteously.

"Not at all, young man." With a smiling face, Master Bai should probably have thought of or misunderstood something.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou then answered with a nod.

When the red light changed green, the car continued moving forward. However, it was quite quiet in the car.

There was slight tiredness on the face of Jiang Changxi. Looking closely, one could even see inconspicuous dark eye circles on her face. After she teased Yuan Zhou as a routine activity, she leaned back in the seat and closed her eyes for a rest.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou just sat in the back seat and stared somewhere blankly.

Actually, Chengdu wasn't far from Meishan. It took only a little more than 1 hour to get there by bus and 40 minutes by car.

However, Yuan Zhou hadn't been there for six years. After he graduated from the senior school there, he hadn't been back anymore.

Meishan was the hometown of Yuan Zhou. At that time, however, Yuan Zhou was reluctant to go back even for the Chinese New Year. He had no house there and besides, his parents didn't have other relatives there.

Even his parents went back to the hometown only on Tomb-Sweeping Day to burn joss sticks to their ancestors. Basically, Yuan Zhou was either studying in the school or believing it was all right to go back next time.

After his parents died, Yuan Zhou was more reluctant to go back as he would feel very depressed at that prospect.

However, there was actually not only sadness, but also more happiness over there.

Whether it was the cozy memory with his family members or with his friends and classmates, good memories were always more than the bad memories.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou decided to go back to his hometown in a hurry.

Yet, speaking of returning to the hometown, there wasn't any matter of hurry.

"Young man, we are in Meishan now. Where do you guys want to go?" Master Bai's words interrupted Yuan Zhou's deep thought.

"So quickly. Where are you getting off, Boss Yuan?" Jiang Changxi sat straight and asked curiously.

"Drop me at Jinyi Road. How about you?" Yuan Zhou directly told them the main avenue of Meishan and then turned around to look at Jiang Changxi.

"I will go there with you first," Jiang Changxi checked the time and then said that.

"Alright. We'll be there right away." After Master Bai said that, the car was pulled away steadily to the main avenue.

Although the avenues of Meishan weren't asphalt roads, they were nevertheless flat cement floors. The stores at both sides of the avenues appeared to have been through many years.

"Doesn't look bad." It was the first time that Jiang Changxi came to Meishan. As soon as she got off the car, she said conveniently.

"Not bad, huh? Facilities in this place are quite complete." Yuan Zhou answered and continued.

"Really?" Jiang Changxi nodded the head.

The simple answer of Jiang Changxi enabled Yuan Zhou to start a conversation.

The place might be much too familiar to Yuan Zhou. He didn't even find any change in the stores. Suddenly, Yuan Zhou became interested in talking and thus directly started to introduce the place.

"Speaking of which, I often came here when I was in the senior school. This photo studio offered terrible service, but it's surprisingly still open now." When Yuan Zhou said that, he smiled once in a blue moon.

"Since you have said its service is poor, it definitely is." Jiang Changxi echoed.

"Of course. But the photographer of this studio is very interesting." Yuan Zhou said that justly when he recalled the photographer's glib tongue when he came to take photos at that time.

"See this store? This was a cybercafe. It looks that it has obtained its license now." Yuan Zhou said in a low voice while pointing at a small store with its shop sign of Heng Long Cybercafe.

"Formerly, there was a stall over here. The boss was an easy-going granny. She liked drinking liquor, but she cooked very delicious hot and sour rice noodles. At that time, I came for a bowl of that every day after the classes were over."

"So much has changed. They have made several empty rooms into a small market. Speaking of which, the secret base of us boys was right here."

"Haw-haw. The tree is still here. Look, its characteristic of being hit by thunders is still so impressive."

"It's the renting bookstore. With a deposit of 10 RMB, it charged 1 RMB per day. I once had a book confiscated by my teacher and the pledge of 10 RMB was then lost. I felt sorrowful for quite a while at

that time."

Then, Yuan Zhou introduced all the stores along the main avenue without ceasing.

It was the first time that Jiang Changxi saw Yuan Zhou behaving like that. He was simply too talkative. Unexpectedly, he appeared to be more humane now.

After they walked through the side streets, there appeared several white shabby buildings that were barely visible in front of them.

"Right in front of us is my school. Do you want to go there to look around?" Yuan Zhou stood at the end of the street and then said.

"Ok." Without any hesitation, Jiang Changxi nodded the head.

"I once studied here, but now it's surprisingly closed down now." Yuan Zhou's tone carried some reminiscence and unknown sentimental feeling.

"The quality of the buildings is very good." Jiang Changxi suddenly heaved an unrelated sigh.

"Umm?" Yuan Zhou became dumbfounded instantly.

"It's definitely in the 1980s when you studied here, right?" Jiang Changxi looked carefully at Yuan Zhou and then said.

"..." Yuan Zhou suddenly felt all the sentimental feelings vanishing.

Then he brought her and walked toward the school without speaking anything.

Jiang Changxi followed him behind quietly.

"They seem to have rotted out. There were formerly several wooden buildings here, gazebos actually." Yuan Zhou pointed at some rotten wood and said.

"Humm," Jiang Changxi nodded her head dumbly.

"This was the teaching building, but our school didn't have a library." Pointing at the main teaching building, Yuan Zhou introduced almost every place inside like a full-time tour guide.

"Wonderful." Jiang Changxi was likewise a careful listener.

It was getting dark slowly. The two of them wandered about in the school for several hours.

During the period, Jiang Changxi listened to him constantly while Yuan Zhou talked excitedly. They appeared to be quite harmonious.

"Speaking of which, we were all students that lived here. The male dormitories were really not bad. Six people lived in one dormitory." Yuan Zhou pointed at the building behind the main teaching building and told her.

"Coo." Just when Jiang Changxi wanted to say something, her stomach suddenly sounded out of turn.

They fell silent for an instant.

The sound broke the excited mood of Yuan Zhou. Not until then did he react that he had surprisingly chattered without stop for several hours like that.

He looked at Jiang Changxi and found she still looked as usual without an expression of boredom. With that, Yuan Zhou felt rather embarrassed as it was anyway quite annoying to hear others babbling.

Not to mention he had gabbled on for several hours.

"Sorry. Let me treat you to dinner." With a frown, Yuan Zhou said seriously and solemnly.

He wasn't satisfied with his deeds and hence wanted to compensate Jiang Changxi.

"Haw-haw. Never mind. Aren't you going to take me to your dormitory to have a look?" Jiang Changxi asked while pointing at

an abandoned building at the side.

"No need. Nobody is in now, anyway." Yuan Zhou took a look at the small shabby building and said with a frustrated tone.

"You have many classmates, right? You are supposedly the one who's living the best among your fellow students. Don't you want to hold a gathering and show off your well-being now?" Jiang Changxi suggested smilingly.

"It's really a candid suggestion." Yuan Zhou indicated that he didn't even know how to respond.

"Of course. A person of great conscience and a piece of suggestion of great conscience." Jiang Changxi answered mischievously.

"The atmosphere was totally ruined by you." Yuan Zhou was rather speechless.

After quite a while, Yuan Zhou said lightly, "Thank you for your comfort."

"You are welcome. This understanding elder sister is nice, isn't it?" Jiang Changxi smiled and revealed two inconspicuous dimples.

"Absolutely." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

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Chapter 306: Taste and Memory

"I can show my dormitory to you next time. Let's get something to eat first." Eventually, Yuan Zhou didn't take her to the male dormitory building.

"No need. We can eat on the way back or it's also a good choice for you to specially cook a meal for me." Jiang Changxi answered mischievously with a tone full of teasing.

"There'll be BBQ served tonight. You can come." Yuan Zhou said primly just when Jiang Changxi thought that he wouldn't answer her.

"Gee? A new service?" Jiang Changxi became surprised.

"Humm. Let's go to eat something." After a nod, Yuan Zhou turned around and took her toward the main avenue.

"Where are you going to eat, the dumplings of that Granny Zhang or the cold rice jelly over there? If not that the BBQ will be served tonight, I really want to try the taste of the Little Yang Grilled Squid."

Jiang Changxi brought out a long series of foods continuously. Most importantly, all these foods were introduced by Yuan Zhou just now.

It seemed that although Jiang Changxi just answered him with sort of simple words of "ok" or "humm", she had been actually listening to him carefully, rather than doing that perfunctorily.

"Where do you want to go?" Yuan Zhou was a little touched in the heart and hence answered gently once in a blue moon.

"Why don't you come to my home and cook for me? Come and try the difference between your kitchen and mine." Jiang Changxi rolled her eyes and teased him again frankly.

"Sometimes, you look more like an elegant woman when you

don't talk." Yuan Zhou couldn't help saying that.

"Well, sorry, I'm much too good. Don't you also feel it's not good of me to be so beautiful, right?" Jiang Changxi lifted up a strand of hair with a narcissistic manner.

"Let's go to eat the wonton. It's over there." Considering the considerate deeds of Jiang Changxi, Yuan Zhou said nothing about his opinions of pretty girls, thus he had to change the subject.

"Sure. Compass Boss Yuan, are you treating?" Jiang Changxi revealed a surprised expression.

"Yes, I'm not a stingy person." Yuan Zhou emphasized once more.

"I didn't say you were stingy, Compass Boss Yuan." Jiang Changxi covered her mouth and snickered.

"Humm, let's go." With a nod, Yuan Zhou indicated that he believed in her. Then, he brought her to the stall to eat wonton.

"Is this the small wonton that you mentioned just now? It seemed that the owners changed." Looking at the two men who were apparently not the couple, Jiang Changxi asked in puzzlement.

"I don't think so. That couples had sons." Yuan Zhou looked at them carefully and then said affirmatively.

"Really? Boss Yuan even knows about that?" Even if Jiang Changxi sat in the dusty store, she likewise appeared glamorous. This thing called aura was really strange.

"I guess so." Yuan Zhou answered honestly.

Jiang Changxi shrugged, not knowing if she believed or not. But Yuan Zhou didn't really care about that. Instead, he turned the head and directly started to order the dish.

The preparation method of the small wonton was very easy. Flatten a thin dough skin about a young girl's palm size, scoop up a little pure meat stuffing with the bamboo chips, pinch the dough skin with the palm tight after wrapping the meat stuffing inside

and then a small wonton was good.

With such a preparation method, a proficient person could make about half a bowl's amount within one minute.

"Puff puff"

After throwing them into the boiling water for an instant, the dough skin of the wonton immediately became transparent, vaguely revealing the pink meat stuffing inside.

Then, pour some seasoned hot powder, chopped green onions and a little salt into the water. The most important ingredients were naturally the dried little shrimps and seaweed powder in the end of the cooking.

With the little shrimps and seaweed, even the chicken powder or MSG wasn't needed at all.

The soup of the little wonton was merely the broth scooped up along with the wonton.

Once the steaming hot broth and the small wonton were poured into the bowl, they instantly soaked into the dried flavorings.

In an instant, the delicate flavor blended with some pungency of the seasoned hot powder evoked people's appetite.

"Yum. It really looks nice. Let me savor the taste first." Having showed no dislike to the bowls and plates, Jiang Changxi took the chopsticks and said excitedly.

"Um. This wonton is suitable to be eaten hot." Yuan Zhou felt both slightly nostalgic and a little disappointed.

With his sensitive taste sense, he naturally found out the taste had slightly changed and was no long like before.

Since the owners changed, the taste changed, too. Even if the previous owner's sons were running the stall now, the taste still changed. It was so much for the saying of "a particular taste belonging to a particular person."

"Awoo, awoo." Jiang Changxi was eating quite happily. Having eaten a lesser half of the wonton, she raised the head and then found Yuan Zhou wasn't eating, thus she asked.

"Didn't you tell me it's good to eat it hot?"

"Um, I'm going to eat now." After a nod, Yuan Zhou picked up the plastic spoon and started to eat.

As the dough skin of the wonton was fairly thin, it slightly melted in the hot water after a while. When Yuan Zhou ate it, the dough skin had slightly melted and thus the taste was a little different.

But still, Yuan Zhou was eating with appetite. Back to this place, he was actually eating the memory rather than the taste itself. Therefore, he basically finished the wonton at the same time with Jiang Changxi.

"I'm stuffed. Yeah, it's tasty." Jiang Changxi answered smilingly. In front of her were two empty bowls.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou checked the phone for the time. It was 7:30 in the evening.

"It's the time to leave. Do you have anything else to do?" Yuan Zhou had originally intended to leave, but he suddenly remembered that Jiang Changxi came to fetch something. Therefore, he was a little embarrassed.

"Never mind. My problem has been solved as I have asked others to get it," Jiang Changxi said with a comforting manner.

"Um. Then come to my restaurant to eat the BBQ." Yuan Zhou invited her again.

"Don't worry. I definitely won't miss the new service of Boss Yuan, not to mention you invited me personally." Jiang Changxi nodded the head and agreed.

"Good. Let's go." While they were talking, Master Bai's car had

approached them. Yuan Zhou helped Jiang Changxi open the car door.

"Thank you." Jiang Changxi sat in the passenger seat while Yuan Zhou sat in the back seat alone.

After they got on the car, Yuan Zhou recovered his normal wordless state and Jiang Changxi just closed her eyes and rested there while leaning against the seat.

In the car, the driver Master Bai was playing his favorite old songs. Well, the old rock songs.

The nameless singer was singing some lyrics unknown to Yuan Zhou with his cracking voice.

While the atmosphere was quiet and peaceful at Yuan Zhou's side, it was totally different at Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Starting from the moment the customer saw the A4 paper, they didn't feel good.

"What's the matter? Why are they in such a chaos?" It was a man who was dressed in business suit and wearing a tie, on which there was a diamond tie clip.

"Manager Shi, let me go over to see what happened." Beside him was a slender woman who was dressed in a business dress. When she heard that, she revealed an inquiring expression on her delicate face.

"No need. Let me go to check it myself. What's wrong with Boss Yuan?" The man called Manager Shi frowned and said that while walking forward.

"He might not have noticed the situation here." The woman guessed.

"You are new and might not know about my temperament. I don't like others talking much beside me." Manager Shi glanced at the pretty woman beside him and said indifferently.

"Sorry, I get it now." The woman immediately restrained herself and stood back to the rear left of Manager Shi.

Then, manager Shi nodded the head contentedly. As they were getting closer, they heard the discussion at the entrance of Boss Yuan's restaurant.

"On seeing the white color, I had a premonition. As I got close, I found it's really a leave request. Boss Yuan, you are way too deceitful." It was Wu Hai who was about to cry into the air.

"There weren't any clues at all. It's surprisingly the unexpected leave request again. Come on. I came here for the first time in the past three weeks." Another customer was just speechless.

"I strongly request that Boss Yuan not rest." Yuan Zhou would definitely say it's not humane if he heard this proposal.

Even other customers at the side couldn't tolerate him.

"You can't be too mean. He's not likely to work all day long. I think he can work twelve hours every day and the remaining twelve hours are for rest." This customer said that with a generous tone.

Then, the customers started a heated discussion. After Manager Shi knew the reason for leave, he really wanted to say, "I don't know if it's good for me to swear."

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Chapter 307: Upcoming BBQ Feast

"How could it be 12 hours?" Manager Shi went up and uttered solemnly.

"Why did you also come here? Boss Yuan isn't here today." Wu Hai knew Manager Shi. After all, there weren't many customers who came a few times a week.

"Um. I only sleep five hours everyday. Boss Yuan is more diligent than me, so 6 hours are enough for him to rest." Manager Shi first nodded to Wu Hai and then said primly.

Once he said that, however, the crowd was lost in the silence.

Even Wu Hai couldn't help saying, "You have worked so hard, what are we working so hard for? This is not a proposal, but a toxic chicken soup for the soul."

After that, other customers lost even the desire to ridicule any of them.

One was a manager of an electronic company, who came to Yuan Zhou's restaurant for meals at least three times per week and occasionally left a clove of garlic uneaten.

The other was the well-known young artist, who took Yuan Zhou's restaurant as his personal canteen.

Are the two of them sure that they were not showing off? The crowd got speechless for quite a while.

"I feel we ought to think what the compensated BBQ at night is." After a considerable while, a customer changed the subject.

"That's a good idea. What exactly is the BBQ?" The customers looked toward Wu Hai of one accord.

Some regular customers all knew that Wu Hai had once studied cooking from Yuan Zhou.

"Wu Hai, Do you know what it is?" Manager Shi directly asked

him.

"How do I know? I didn't even know that he isn't here today." Wu Hai was rather helpless.

"How could you not know? You live so close to him." Manager Shi said unreservedly.

"It's none of your business." Wu Hai was originally unhappy for that he didn't manage to have the meal. Now that he was insulted to his face, he surely wouldn't restrain himself.

Of course, he wouldn't restrain himself, either, even if he wasn't in a bad mood.

"Tsk. What a bad temper! But I believe it's a new dish." Manager Shi gave the cold shoulder to Wu Hai.

"I'm going to leave and come back at night to see what it is. But I think it's supposed to be a new dish." A customer echoed.

"Superfluous words. Never eating it before, never hearing of it before and never seeing it before. Of course it's a new dish." Wu Hai crossed his arms against the chest and said deservedly.

"Wait. So there will be no liquor tonight?" The manager suddenly recalled something and asked with a caring tone.

"Surely not," Wu Hai gloated and said.

He didn't manage to get the liquor from a lucky draw today. Therefore, he was so joyful when he saw those lucky guys unable to drink liquor, either.

"Take it easy. I didn't get the red ball, either." Manager Shi said smilingly.

"Then what are you excited for?" Wu Hai revealed a speechless manner.

Other customers who watched the scene all along indicated that the two people were way too naive. Of course, they also cared about the matter.

"As far as I know, Boss Yuan has never eaten his words before. But in this leave request, he mentioned nothing about drinking liquor. What will he do?" Pointing at the leave request, the customer analyzed it word by word and then said.

"You think too much. I believe that Boss Yuan already has a solution." This is a customer who trusted Boss Yuan.

"Alright. Let's leave. I don't see anybody inside." Wu Hai waved his hand and left first.

"Let's go." Manager Shi also turned the head and said to his secretary who stood behind him and said nothing.

"Ok, Manager Shi. The car is at the crossing now. Are we coming over here tonight?" Wearing the pointed high-heeled shoes, the secretary didn't make any sound while walking. Obviously, she had been trained.

"Sure." Manager Shi nodded the head deservedly.

"What about we coming around at 8 this evening?" It was the customer who was curious about the new dish but more curious about how Boss Yuan solve the pub problem.

"No problem. Let's come together." This proposal got the consent from most of the customers.

Being still in the car, Yuan Zhou nevertheless felt his ears itchy. He had already felt like someone was talking behind his back.

The night came late in summer. It was a nice day and he could even see some light at this time of day.

At 7:50, Shen Min arrived at the entrance of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and happened to meet Wu Hai and other customers who were waiting at the door.

"Everybody came to drink liquor?" Shen Min didn't know who would come for liquor today. When she saw more than 10 people there, she was startled.

"Not really. Don't you know that Boss Yuan isn't here?" Wu Hai asked while pointing at the leave request. Speaking of Yuan Zhou, he even gnashed the teeth in anger.

"Yes, I know. Boss Yuan instructed me to come to open the door and greet the customers for liquor. He will come a little later." Shen Min nodded the head obediently and then took out the key from her back pack.

"Ah, he turns out to have arranged it this way!" The customers instantly got speechless.

But when they thought it over, it indeed made sense. The pub indeed didn't require Yuan Zhou to do anything now.

After a sound of "Zhi Ya", Shen Min pulled open the door. There was a rack for daily use in the main hall.

Namely the LED writing board that Yuan Zhou had used to write the discount info.

As soon as Shen Min got inside, she took out the LED board outside the door.

Then she plugged in the power lightly. The LED board started to emit colorful rays.

"Boss Yuan's taste is still so unconventional." The customers looked at the flamboyant LED board and said. They seemed not to be accustomed to it.

"Like always." Wu Hai said helplessly.

When they saw the notification on the LED board, however, they became more speechless.

[Boss Yuan isn't here this evening. So we provide only the bamboo liquor to those who have purchased it." The signature was naturally Yuan Zhou.

"He talked as if he provided dishes during normal times," Wu Hai said discontentedly.

"Brother Wu, we provide Drunkard's Peanuts during the normal times." Shen Min said earnestly.

"I'm talking about hot dishes." Wu Hai corrected her without a blush.

"I feel that Boss Yuan amuses people every time." The customers looked at the notification and felt rather speechless.

"No. My boss said he would prepare the BBQ tonight to compensate you for not serving the dinner." Shen Min explained hurriedly.

"I'm joking." Seeing Shen Min's anxious expression, the customer explained to her.

They trusted Yuan Zhou's moral integrity.

However, the one that didn't trust Yuan Zhou's moral integrity at all was supposed to be the system.

Originally, after Yuan Zhou received the title of Senior BBQ Master, the following pitfall was naturally that he was required to set up a stall for BBQ. Contrarily, Yuan Zhou used it as a compensation for the customers.

Concerning such practice, the system really couldn't say Yuan Zhou violated the rules. It could only watch him do it dumbly.

Luckily, there wasn't much traffic on the way to Chengdu tonight. Therefore, Master Bai drove the two of them back in 40 minutes.

Of course, Jiang Changxi straightforwardly dropped Yuan Zhou at the crossing of the side street.

"Thank you," Yuan Zhou shut the car door and said lightly.

Seated in the car, Jiang Changxi spoke nothing and just waved her hand. After that, Master Bai drove away.

Yuan Zhou didn't enter the restaurant from the front door. Instead, he entered from the back door.

Having washed up on the second floor, he came to the kitchen again and started to prepare the BBQ for the wee hours.

The several people who were drinking on the second floor of the pub nevertheless knew nothing about that.

"Hey, writer. Are you going to stay up and eat the BBQ tonight?" It was Meng Meng who hadn't showed up recently.

"No, I won't. I am prepared to write something while I'm tipsy after drinking. That feeling is marvelous." It was the writer, namely the man who called himself a novelist.

"Whoops. Meng Meng, don't get me into your broadcast when you make the live broadcast at night." At the other side was Su Mu, who once followed Jiang Changxi here.

He didn't come alone but with a young girl this time. Seated beside him quietly with a black cat in her arms, she only raised her head with a bashful manner when Su Mu talked.

"Why?" Meng Meng revealed a curious expression. There was a blush on her face due to the liquor, thus she appeared more adorable.

"I'm way too beautiful. If I appear in the shoot, I will draw all the attention. How will you continue the live broadcast then? Su Mu swallowed up a gulp of liquor and said naturally.

Meng Meng was lost in silence for quite a while. Luckily, the BBQ time was going to start. Who knows what would it be like.

Chapter 308: Eclectic BBQ

While waiting, Meng Meng adjusted and tested her direct broadcast equipment. And the writer muttered something while drinking the liquor.

The young girl who was carrying a black cat nevertheless said after quite a while of hesitation.

"Elder brother, can I drink a small cup of liquor?" Carrying the black cat, the exquisite-looking young girl asked timidly.

"Nope. You said to just come over to have a look." Su Mu drank a gulp of liquor deliciously first before he answered.

"But the boss isn't here. Elder brother, you have eaten your words." The young girl had a pair of peach blossom eyes that resembled her brother Su Mu. She discontentedly opened her eyes wide and grumbled.

"It's not my fault. Boss Yuan is on business. I can do nothing about it." Su Mu shrugged, indicating that it was not his problem.

"Just now, Sister Meng Meng said it was fairly delicious," the young girl said persistently.

Even the cat in her arms emitted a sound of "miaow" in time.

"Elder brother, see? Even my cat agrees with me." The young girl lifted up the cat and said happily.

"I think it just envies my beautiful appearance." Su Mu touched his own face and said calmly.

"I want to eat the BBQ." The young girl said. She had to take the second best.

"If you put on weight, don't tell others that you are my younger sister," Su Mu said with dislike.

"I'm as same as you. Neither of us have the fat physique." The young girl said affirmatively.

"But you aren't as good-looking as me," Su Mu said positively.

"Elder brother, stop it please. The BBQ is going to start." The young girl had been used to Su Mu showing off his narcissism in daily life, but still she was a little uncomfortable with it. Therefore, she directly changed the subject.

"Ok. Let's go now. Even if we don't eat, we can have a look." Having checked the watch on his wrist, Su Mu drank up the last gulp of bamboo liquor unhurriedly and stood up.

"Brother, you pay." The young girl picked up the black cat and walked after Su Mu and then said excitedly.

"Dang Dang Dang. Meng Meng's midnight direct broadcast commences now. Everybody that hasn't had a meal, please prepare yourself. We'll see Boss Yuan's BBQ in no time."

After the short speech, Meng Meng adjusted her expression. Having her hair tied into an oblique ponytail, she looked more adorable.

[Wow, I finally got you. Hey guys, my snacks have been piled all over my bed.] from Loneliness.

[Hey, poor fellows. You never know what authentic foodies are like. I have been in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.] from Heroes.

[Lol. Envious of rich heroes.] from Thief of Delicacies.

[I prefer to look at Meng Meng. She is still so cute.] from Thunder Rain.

[The messages flashing on the screen covered over Meng Meng. I will allow it now. But later, please keep away from Boss Yuan.] from Huanyi Zheng.

[I am now on the way to Boss Yuan's restaurant.] from Cloud Knows.

[Warning, yummy foods ahead. Whoever that doesn't want to starve leave quickly.] from Water As Cold As Night.

[A self-tortured person wants to leave but is still curious. What shall I do?] from Ya Ke Ma Fei Di.

[Agreed. I have stuffed a bowl of instant noodles into my stomach even before the BBQ commences. While taking the ham sausage in my trembling hand, I really feel weight loss is so far from me.] from I Gold.

"Giggle! It looks that everybody likes Boss Yuan very much. I will send your love to him." Meng Meng teased them smilingly.

Then, more messages flashed on the screen.

Happily following Shen Min, the customers entered Yuan Zhou's restaurant and came to the main hall.

Here in the restaurant, Yuan Zhou had already got everything prepared.

Now, an oven used by Yuan Zhou last time to process the food ingredients was placed on the azure stone countertop that was left unused in normal times.

At the other side of the oven were the hours of effort of Yuan Zhou.

In the three and half hours from 8:30 to 12:00, Yuan Zhou made many kebabs with every food ingredient in the kitchen that could be used to make BBQ.

However, these kebabs weren't laid out according to sorts. They seemed to be laid out randomly.

"Elder brother, it's so small here. Isn't there a lot of smoke?" As soon as the young girl entered Yuan Zhou's restaurant, she asked worriedly.

"Supposedly, no. I have never smelled any oil smoke before." Su Mu wasn't quite sure, either.

After all, those BBQ outside along streets were all surrounded by the flame and smoke.

"Good night, everybody. Shen Min, you can go back." Yuan Zhou greeted the several customers and then turned to look at Shen Min.

"Boss, we are still in business now," Shen Min was a little surprised.

"Leave it to me. Go, go catch the bus," Yuan Zhou said seriously.

"Never mind. I don't have any class tomorrow morning and can help you now." Shen Min insisted.

"I don't have a car to send you back." Yuan Zhou spoke rather straightforwardly.

"Well, ok. Boss, I'm leaving." Shen Min was quite sensitive. She knew the reason was true. There was indeed nobody who could send her back.

"Tsk-tsk. Boss Yuan knows nothing about being kind to girls. What should you do in the future?" As soon as Ling Hong entered the restaurant, Ling Hong sighed with emotion.

"You misunderstand him. Boss Yuan has once asked me to help him send the girl to her college. He's just firm in speech but soft in heart," Jiang Changxi said.

"I only care about when we can eat," Wu Hai cared most about foods.

"The business time ends at 2:00 am," Yuan Zhou said lightly while pointing at the clock on the wall.

"Boss Yuan, you are too cunning. Why didn't you tell us earlier? Meng Meng is going to order the BBQ now." Meng Meng was originally chatting with her audiences while watching Yuan Zhou being ridiculed.

Once she heard Yuan Zhou, she immediately said discontentedly with a frown.

"You can't order dishes here. If you want to eat the BBQ, you guys can have one serving each with a fixed number of 16 kebabs. And

nothing more." Yuan Zhou still said indifferently.

"Look! New rules are coming again. No wonder he is Compass." Meng Meng took the camera lens and said to the audiences secretly.

"One serving for me." Regardless of the annoying rules, Wu Hai ordered. He hadn't even had his dinner.

As per his theory, if there were delicious BBQ, why would he still go to eat other BBQ's to torture his own stomach?

"Me too. Get me one serving," Meng Meng declared loudly.

"One serving for me." Ling Hong specially came to eat the BBQ and of course he would order, even if the rules were annoying like always.

"Ok. One moment, please." Yuan Zhou answered with a nod. Then he wore the face mask and took three serving of kebabs to get them grilled.

"Let's have a look at Boss Yuan's BBQ. We might be able to steal his skills." Meng Meng moved the camera lens toward Yuan Zhou and talked as if she were a little fox that were stealing a chicken.

"Which serving is mine?" Wu Hai asked while looking at the kebabs of vegetables and meat.

"The first one .They are grilled in sequence." Yuan Zhou pointed to the particular serving with five streaky pork kebabs, one shrimp kebabs and six vegetable kebabs. The remaining were some other meat kebabs.

Seeing that, Wu Hai was quite satisfied. He pointed at the other side and said, "What's this?"

That one belonged to Ling Hong. There were a few kebabs of red meat, with which Wu Hai was fairly curious.

"Beef." Yuan Zhou answered, but very simply and explicitly.

"Is the grilled beef of Boss Yuan going to be chewy? Apart from

that, he cuts it so thin." Meng Meng left the suspense to the audiences step by step and just waited to tell them until she started to eat.

"Elder brother, there isn't any smoke. Can I have one serving, please?" The young girl carrying the cat asked Su Mu.

"Xiao Sheng, are you sure you want one?" Su Mu wasn't really interested in the BBQ.

Apart from the flame and smoke, there might be charcoal dirt, which didn't conform to Su Mu's aesthetics.

"Um, thank you, elder brother." Seeing nobody notice her, the young girl behaved in a spoiled manner to Su Mu.

"Ok. Boss Yuan, one more serving, please." Su Mu naturally didn't know how to deal with his spoiled sister and thus had to agree.

Shortly afterwards, those who came first would begin to eat the BBQ. At the other side, there were more people rushing toward the restaurant on the road in the wee hours.

What was the taste of Yuan Zhou's BBQ like?

Chapter 309: Influence of Yuan Zhou's Restaurant

Many more people were rushing over to the restaurant, thus even the side street became more hectic.

Apart from the customers, the hawkers were also getting more and more.

These people understood Yuan Zhou a lot. Therefore, nobody was selling the BBQ outside anymore. They only served some drinks and liquor.

And some other kinds of bland midnight snacks, like Fried Rice Noodles, Cold Noodles with Sesame Sauce and Kanto Cooking.

In a short while, there appeared a long line of customers outside.

"Do you see that? This is the power of Boss Yuan. There are still so many people even if it's so late." Meng Meng moved the camera lens of her phone toward the customers outside and then sighed with emotion.

[I really wish I were also there in the line. Did you guys notice the streaky pork being grilled with a sound of "Zi Zi"? It's simply mouth-watering.] from Mint Noodles.

[I preferred to eat the beef.] from Feeling Like KFC.

[I also wish I was in the line, too.] from Sunny But Sorrowful.

The messages flashing on the screen this time fully expressed the audiences' envy. After the envy was naturally urging Meng Meng to start eating.

This way, it could at least satisfy their cravings for good food through images. As for whether they would feel hungrier after that, it wasn't their concern right now.

"Everybody, please take your time and enjoy." Yuan Zhou carried

the first three servings of kebabs out.

Having upgraded to the Senior BBQ Master, Yuan Zhou carried all the meat and vegetable kebabs out at the same time with an ease.

Besides, the grilled kebabs were perfect for eating.

"Wow! Time to eat now. Which do you think I should start with?" Meng Meng first moved the camera lens toward the kebabs with mouth-watering appearance and then asked.

While Meng Meng was interacting with her audiences, Ling Hong and Wu Hai had started to eat at the side.

Actually, Meng Meng also wanted to eat it immediately, but it's very important for her to interacting with her audiences in the live broadcast.

[Streaky pork. Streaky pork first. Look at the alluring oil droplets. Come on, Meng Meng.] from Blue Sorrow.

[Streaky pork. How could it be called a kebab without streaky pork?"] from Rain Stops.

[I feel it's also a good option to start with a vegetable kebabs to whet the appetite.] from Game 00.

After all the messages flashed on the screen, everybody's attention was drawn to it. Then, Meng Meng chose the streaky pork mostly expected by the audiences and started to eat.

"Then I'm going to start eating the streaky pork." Meng Meng lifted up a kebab of streaky pork and said smilingly.

The streaky pork strung up together on each kebab had two pieces and the size was barely enough for one mouthful. Therefore, Meng Meng swallowed up a piece of streaky pork at one gulp.

As a girl, Meng Meng didn't really like to eat much meat.

After all, a temporary enjoyment of meat dish could possibly result in a serious consequence of putting on weight. It was a

bloody lesson known to her.

Meng Meng liked the Braised Pork with Soy Sauce made with rice by Yuan Zhou most as it was both delicious and free from fat. Only that kind of dishes were the good news for pretty girls.

As a fine food streamer, however, a nice appearance of the food was an essential factor. Besides, Meng Meng also knew that the dishes prepared by Yuan Zhou were definitely very tasty.

Once the streaky pork entered her mouth, she squinted her eyes instantly.

When she originally saw the oil droplets oozing from the streaky pork, she thought it would be very greasy. But when it entered her mouth, she can only feel the scorching aroma as well as the crispness and tenderness.

The fat meat tasted soft and sticky while being chewed as if it were the refreshing fruit jelly with meat fragrance. As the lean meat had been grilled, it carried a little scorching aroma and a hint of chewiness. Plus the fragrance of the fruit wood charcoal and a little crude salt that flavored the pork, the taste of the streaky pork couldn't be more marvelous.

Due to the good taste, Meng Meng ate up another piece of streaky pork impatiently. The texture was slightly different this time. As it was at the end of the bamboo stick, it tasted a little more tender and had another kind of fresh texture.

"Boss Yuan, you definitely did it on purpose. Now that you have made the streaky pork so tasty, how shall we lose weight?" Meng Meng only reacted after she ate up two streaky pork kebabs. Then she said with a long face.

"You won't be be fat. Don't worry." Yuan Zhou nodded the head positively.

"Really? Then I'll not stand on ceremony." Meng Meng believed in Yuan Zhou naively without any doubt.

Having lifted up the remaining streaky pork kebabs, she began to eat while explaining to her audiences.

"Guess what? This streaky pork is super delicious. Despite being slightly burnt and with oil droplets, it does not taste greasy at all. Instead, it's fairly refreshing. So is the meat, just like the soup dumplings." Meng Meng came to the point.

Tempted by Meng Meng's mouth-watering introductions and eating manner, the audiences virtually couldn't restrain the foodie's soul inside their bodies. They had only to express their thirst with the messages on the screen.

[Fat but not greasy, scorched but not difficult to chewy up. Meng Meng, ten more streaky pork kebabs, please.] from Game 00.

[Sorry, my saliva is flooding. I can't stop it. Let me go to drink some water first.] from Tofu Flower.

[It looks very yummy. I don't know if you guys notice that the color of the streaky pork is perfectly grilled. It's golden yellow. Boss Yuan's craftsmanship is awfully awesome.] from Blue Sorrow.

"Yes, you are right. Look, these streaky pork kebabs are all in golden yellow color." Meng Meng lifted up the remaining streaky pork and showed to them.

Shown in the camera lens, it was indeed in uniform color and looked beautiful. The key point was that it was 12:00 at midnight. They just couldn't bear to think that they had to endure others people's descriptions of various feelings of eating the delicacies while looking at the mouth-watering grilled streaky pork.

Therefore, the audiences chose to eat something to steady their nerves one after another.

Meng Meng nevertheless started to eat the beef kebabs at the side.

Naturally, the beef kebabs were provided along with the special dipping sauce of Spiced Salt and Rose by Yuan Zhou. The match

was just excellent.

After eating up one piece, Meng Meng couldn't wait to describe the taste, "It surprisingly has a milk aroma. While chewing, I have a feeling that the gravy is spilling over. When I exhale at last, even the breath carries some fragrance of flower and milk. How miraculous!"

Originally, the grilled beef was prepared by Yuan Zhou to eat separately. Even if there wasn't any dipping sauce, it carried milk fragrance.

Having melted in the strands of beef, plus an abundance of gravy, the crude salt instantly stimulated the intrinsic milk fragrance of the beef. The ultimate rose flavor was simply a stroke of genius, which completely removed the underlying bad smell of beef.

It made the entire beef tastier.

While Meng Meng was making the direct broadcast, Wu Hai and Ling Hong came into conflict.

"I want to change the kebabs with you. One for one." Wu Hai took up a kebab of Jinling Grass and said primly while pointing at the beef in Ling Hong's plate.

"You think I'm a fool?" Ling Hong answered unfriendly.

"I remember that you don't like eating meat?" Wu Hai's ability to lie through his teeth was as if he had studied it too when he was learning the culinary skills from Yuan Zhou.

"Then I want to exchange your streaky pork, with this one." Ling Hong picked up a kebab of tender tofu and said.

"No problem." Wu Hai agreed immediately.

"Gee?" Hearing that, Ling Hong got surprised right away.

"I agree." After that, Wu Hai directly took the tofu kebab and started to eat at lightning speed. Of course, the streaky pork kebab was also given to Ling Hong.

"You like eating tofu?" With a surprised expression, Ling Hong sighed with emotion curiously.

"Because I don't have it." Wu Hai pointed at his own plate and explained.

Yes, it was Yuan Zhou who allocated the specific kebabs. Actually, he just took them casually. There wasn't much difference among the meat kebabs, but it wasn't the same to the vegetable kebabs. Almost everybody had very different vegetable kebabs from others. Therefore, Wu Hai indeed had no grilled tofu.

After the tofu, Wu Hai began to aim at Ling Hong's uneaten beef. Then, they bargained and negotiated on changing kebabs.

While eating at the side, other customers just followed suit in an instant.

They first savored some kebabs in different categories and then selected the one they would like to change with others. After that, they started to do so.

It was definitely a new occurrence. However, such a scene could only be seen in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Chapter 310: Powerful Rival

At 1 am, it was still boisterous outside of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. The hawkers were peddling their take-out to the customers waiting in line, one after the other.

"Ice-cold and thirst-quenching coconut milk. Anybody wants a can of that?"

"Watermelon, watermelon juice."

"Stomach-nourishing millet congee and blood-enriching red bean congee. Anybody wants a bowl?"

The peddling shouts shuttled back and forth in the quiet side street like that.

Many people bought from them.

Yet, this was predictable. Looking at those people eating blissfully in the restaurant, even those onlookers became hungry, let alone those who had been waiting to eat with the empty stomach.

Apart from the people who changed the kebabs with each other, however, an incident happened to Su Mu and his younger sister.

"Brother, you said you wouldn't eat it?" Su Mu's sister had a very nice name, Su Yuesheng. She was now protecting the kebabs with one hand and carrying the black cat with the other.

The two of them were originally standing at the side. When they ordered the dishes, they conveniently used the standing positions. After all, with the cat in her arms, Su Yuesheng found it inappropriate to stay close to other customers.

"I didn't say that. Moreover, I just want to taste it." With an indifferent manner, Su Mu easily took a beef kebab relying on his advantage of height.

He first smelled it carefully and then dipped one piece in the

sauce and the other not before eating them.

"Brother, you can order another serving." Su Yuesheng retreated for one step and said while pointing at Yuan Zhou.

"If I order another serving, I'll have to wait for my turn from the end of the line." Su Mu pointed at the long winding line and shrugged.

"Alright. You can share some of mine. Only seven kebabs and no more." Su Yuesheng hesitated for a while, but still said that.

"Ok. Of all remaining 8, I leave you a beef kebab. You are welcome." While squinting his beautiful peach blossom eyes, Su Mu said without blinking.

"Brother!" Su Yuesheng shouted discontentedly.

Then, the two of them started a friendly discussion between brother and sister on the belonging of the kebabs.

The reason why Su Mu started to eat the kebabs was Meng Meng's introductions. Foods were always most delicious when one looked at others eat.

For example, when you saw one eating the instant noodles and asked him about the taste, you would also feel it super tasty. After that, you would salivate and your stomach would remind you to eat. Such a temptation was really hard to resist.

Most importantly, the BBQ prepared by Yuan Zhou not only smelled good but also made people unable to stop eating.

Two hours passed quickly. Many people failed in getting their turn and eating it. As his rules suggested like always, he had to close the restaurant on time.

Luckily, many people left when they noticed the remaining time wasn't sufficient. Of course, they didn't starve as there were so many hawkers around them.

The hawkers that wandered around all smiled happily. They had

basically earned a lot.

"Boss Yuan, when is the next BBQ?" When Yuan Zhou stood right opposite the entrance and saw the customers off, someone asked him.

"I will give notice at some other time." Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou answered simply as he didn't know the weather in the future.

"Then when approximately?" Those who didn't manage to eat the BBQ cared about that while those who had eaten it also cared about that.

"Just tell us how many times you will serve BBQ every month." With his acute observations, Manager Shi understood from Yuan Zhou's word that the BBQ wouldn't be served frequently. Thus, he straightforwardly asked.

"Five times. For this month, only four left." Yuan Zhou directly chose the lowest number requested by the system.

"As expected, so little," Manager Shi knitted his brows.

"Watch out on the way. Good night." Yuan Zhou didn't answer him anymore. Having busied all day long, he was also fairly tired.

Only by adjusting his state of mind could he weather through the two hours of BBQ with his best spirit.

After the customers got the answer that they wanted, they left one after another. Now that it ended, Yuan Zhou only wanted to have a good rest.

Therefore, the event of holding a BBQ at the spur of the moment finally ended.

But not in other places. For the following several days, the BBQ business in other places apparently got much better and a lot more people ordered the streaky pork kebabs and beef kebabs.

All this consumption was recorded by somebody else.

It was on the 20th floor of a 33-storey building at Chunxi Avenue in the central areas in Chengdu City.

A spacious office, where there were also a meeting room for small-sized meetings, a reception room and other function rooms, apart from the working room.

Seated behind the brown solid-timber office table was a competent man who was dressed in well-tailored suit and wearing gold-rimmed glasses. He was about 40 years old and was looking through the documents on the table.

"So this is your outcome of this whole month?" Even when he talked, he had a sense of leadership in his tone.

"Yes. These three regions are the most prosperous regions. We suggest that we open up our first chain restaurant in this region." Standing at the other side of the office table was a short-haired woman. She was dressed in a white shirt and black suit pants. There was full of confidence in her tone even when she talked.

"You tell me the visitor flow rate and consumption level of a mere development zone is equal to that of the wealthy district and tourist area." Seated there, the man had the intrinsic aura of a director.

"Don't worry, boss. We have made the data comparison for at least five times and there's no problem at all." the woman wasn't afraid at all. Instead, she said affirmatively.

"Give me a reasonable explanation." The man closed the documents and looked up at the woman in front of him seriously.

"Here's the situation. The dining service in the tourist area has been very good. Moreover the customers are all tourists who do not have much loyalty to any particular restaurant. And the market development has been quite mature. Therefore, there isn't much space for us to get in." The woman received the documents and said while pointing at the regional map.

"Um." With a nod, the man indicated that he was listening.

"As for the wealthy district, the consumption level is indeed very high, but the dining part isn't so good. Similarly, the market has been very mature and we cannot advance rashly." With her slender fingers pointing at that region, the woman said positively.

"It's not a good reason to choose a development zone, either." The man pointed at that area where Yuan Zhou's restaurant was and said.

Yes. The area where Yuan Zhou's restaurant was located was a development zone, which was full of companies, various companies doing business on every floor of the buildings.

Surrounding that area were likewise tiny restaurants. No large supermarkets and commercial streets.

Arguably, there wasn't any good place for meals, drinking and fun over there. People living in that area were all residents of the old quarter of Chengdu City or else those who moved here from other places like Yuan Zhou's parents. They generally didn't have a high living standard.

"Yes, there is one. This tiny restaurant." The woman pointed again at the position marked red in the map. It was Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Oh?" The man uttered vaguely.

"We have made investigations. The average consumption level per person in the restaurant could reach no less than 500 RMB. Of course, it's the price for one meal. Besides, the price of the dishes are much too high." The woman brought out the fact.

"The restaurant is open for only six hours every day and customers of the pub in the evening are too few to be mentioned. But the regular customers that go there every day don't include the tourists. Even so, the restaurant cannot even satisfy the demand of the regular customers as the business time is short and the place is

small." The woman talked about the defects of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"As a result, the neighboring tiny restaurants are basically full of people every day, including the street vendors. It's hard to see in other places."

"Nonetheless, they still couldn't receive the customers that are getting more and more. Therefore, 16 more restaurants serving home cuisines have been opened in the surrounding areas." The woman brought out the influence of Yuan Zhou's restaurant after it was opened in one breath.

"By means of that single small restaurant, the consumption level of that area is promoted to that of the wealthy district and tourist area?" The man revealed an expression of disbelief.

"Yes. There's only one person that cooks in the restaurant. He's the boss." The woman nodded the head positively.

"So you are telling me that single person has boosted the GDP of an entire division?" The man became more suspicious.

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Chapter 311: A Man That Boosts Regional GDP

"So you are telling me that single person has boosted the GDP of an entire division?" The man knocked the table top irritably and appeared apparently suspicious about that.

He had only seen such a person as described once at the west bank of River Tiber in Rome. The person was Jehovah and that place was the Vatican.

"Yes. At the end of the documents is the evidence I provided for this report." The short-haired woman drew out the last few pages directly.

The evidence included some photos and professional data analysis as well as various charts and diagrams of per capita consumption level and visitor flow rate in the past few months in the area where Yuan Zhou's restaurant was located.

The woman handed to the man one by one.

"Hua Hua", the man quickly leafed through them and finished all earnestly and carefully. Then he kept silent for a short moment and said, "What's your business proposal?"

"According to our observation, the tiny restaurant is unable to satisfy the booming visitors and the consumption level. Besides, there's only one or two high-end home cuisine restaurants around. This is a good opportunity for us to get in." The woman was very confident when she talked about the proposal.

"Except for the good taste, that small restaurant cannot reach above our standard on environment, hygiene and service. At this point, we can get in that area as a catering company and develop a high-end restaurant. From those aspects, we can easily defeat the small restaurant." While explaining, the woman took out the business proposal and handed to the man.

"The person you mentioned just now is really amazing. How's the culinary skill of our chef?" The man pointed at a photo.

It was a view of Yuan Zhou's back. Dressed in the Han Chinese clothing, he was busy with cooking in the kitchen.

"Don't worry. We have invited the senior chef Li Li to join us." The woman nevertheless attached much importance to this rival, Yuan Zhou.

"The high-end service, comfy atmosphere and excellent hygienic conditions are all the factors that bring us the victory. Of course, we still need the strong support of Li Li. With him joining us, our company will keep a steady foothold in Chengdu City during its first step." The woman was very confident with the guarantee.

"You can carry out the project as per your proposal. And I agree to give Li Li 4% of the share of the restaurant." The man directly approved the business proposal.

"Ok. I'm going to go and make the arrangements." Taking the approved paper, the woman left at a brisk pace.

"Um." The man nodded the head.

After a sound of "Peng", the solid-timber door was shut lightly.

At that time, the man uttered lightly, "Hope everything goes well."

After coming out of the office, the woman nevertheless appeared fairly excited.

The preliminary research work was tough, but it was a hard-won achievement if she can do it well.

As soon as she came out, she took out the phone and started to make a call. Like always, the call was put through within three rings.

"Mr. Li, I have got the approval to carry out the project. Remember to come on time when everything is settled." The

woman said with a relaxed tone.

"No problem. I never refuse sincere invitations," Li Li smiled and said at the other end of the phone.

"Then I'll look forward to our cooperation." The woman looked very happy since she had again nailed down a key aspect.

The woman had a strong executive force. And this matter just coincided with what the waitress in Yuan Zhou's restaurant had told Yuan Zhou, that this area would be bought.

However, the woman had already inquired the price at which Yuan Zhou was recruited, thus she didn't go to do the useless work anymore.

All that was unknown to Yuan Zhou. He was still running his small restaurant as usual.

"Hong Long Long", there passed conspicuous noises from not far from Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"What did you say? They are renovating all day long? It's been almost one month." While waiting outside in line for the meal, a man frowned and asked. He didn't like noise, especially when he waited for something.

"A dining place, I guess. Didn't you notice many more restaurants are appearing around here?" It was a customer who paid close attention to the changes.

"I don't care. Anyway, I either eat here or eat at home." Another customer shrugged and then said indifferently.

"We can't say so. You probably haven't noticed that dishes served in these tiny restaurants are getting much more delicious." Foodies were more sensitive to such changes on taste.

Of course, Yuan Zhou didn't feel the same. After all, he was only thinking of reaching a higher culinary skills.

"Let's not talk about other things. I only want to know when Boss

Yuan will build a bathroom." A juvenile wearing a baseball hat and sportswear said with a flush on his face.

"Haw-haw. You want go to the bathroom?" It was obviously a fairly experienced customer.

"Yeah, true." Hearing that, the juvenile got a redder face. No one knew if it was because he was embarrassed or if he was holding it him.

"Not many people ahead. I suggest that you wait in line first and go to the bathroom after you order the dishes. When you come back, the dishes will be served." This was a suggestion of conscience from the experienced customer.

"I can only do so. Now that the line is getting longer, God knows when I can eat the dish after coming back." The baseball juvenile looked at the creeping long line behind and said with a lingering fear.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou encountered such a scene in a while.

"Boss, get me a serving of Dongpo Pig Knuckle and a bowl of plain white rice. I will sit here and will be back in no time. Here's the money." It was naturally the baseball juvenile that ordered the dishes this way.

"Um?" Looking at the juvenile with a flushed face, Yuan Zhou didn't react immediately.

"Right here. I'll be back very soon." The juvenile pointed at the vacant seat beside him and said worriedly.

"Ok. Go ahead." When Yuan Zhou saw the juvenile's tightly closed legs and uneasy expression, he understood finally.

After Zhou Jia came over and received the money, he turned around and ran away immediately.

"Haw-haw. An interesting juvenile. Boss Yuan, look at him. How can you not try to solve this problem?" Seated at the side, Ling

Hong pointed to the juvenile's back and said smilingly.

"The establishment of the bathroom does no good to the development of my restaurant." The skill of Yuan Zhou bullsh*ting primly had been practiced to perfection.

"You continue bragging. Apparently, it's because your restaurant is too small." Ling Hong let out a humph. He didn't believe in Yuan Zhou's excuses at all.

"I think it's fairly good now," said Wu Hai after he finished the meal and made way for others.

"Of course you feel it good. You live so close to him." Ling Hong exposed Wu Hai's hypocrisy.

"This is just my advantage." With a nod, Wu Hai indicated that it was fair enough.

"Eating well is the right business." Manager Shi said leisurely while enjoying the delicacies comfortably.

"This old man also feels the restaurant is good. Yes, especially the excellent craftsmanship." The grandpa looked at the crowd in line and sighed with emotion.

This was the daily situation of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, which had a cozy atmosphere.

After a short while, the juvenile came back. The complexion on his face had changed to peace and tranquility.

"Wow. Just as expected, I barely made it." He immediately saw the pig knuckle and plain white rice on the table and then said excitedly.

"Dong Dong Dong", he ran over to get seated in the chair right away and prepared to eat.

"One moment. You can't eat now." Yuan Zhou walked to the juvenile and straightforwardly stopped him.

"Gee? Why?" The juvenile raised his head discontentedly. When

he saw it was Yuan Zhou, he held his horses and asked.

"You'll know why later on." Yuan Zhou took a look at the pig knuckle and then answered.

"Don't worry, Boss yuan. I have washed my hands." Having been enlightened, the juvenile reached out his clean hands and said positively.

"You can eat five minutes later." Yuan Zhou took no notice of his explanation, but said that.

Then, the juvenile became curious. He had never heard before that one couldn't eat after ordering the dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Was he going to be the first one?

What's the matter?!

Chapter 312: Second Way to Eat Dongpo Pig Knuckle

The baseball juvenile was a little perturbed.

"Boss Yuan, why?" The juvenile looked at Yuan Zhou and asked nervously.

"Nothing. Three minutes left." Yuan Zhou looked at the pig knuckle again and said firmly.

"Boss Yuan, I'm quite worried if you don't tell me." Looking at the delicacy on the table, the juvenile swallowed up his saliva.

"Calm down." Yuan Zhou tried to comfort him calmly.

"Boss Yuan, you scared this little boy." Ling Hong was also very curious, but he didn't ask directly. Instead, he said that way.

"Alright. You can eat now." Having checked the time and looked at the pig knuckle, Yuan Zhou signaled him.

"Uh? Can I? Is that all?" The juvenile was slightly surprised. Just after waiting for five minutes and doing nothing, he could eat now?

"Please enjoy." Yuan Zhou reached out his hand and said courteously.

"Can I really eat it now?" The baseball juvenile was still a little perturbed.

"Go ahead." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"Boss Yuan is so weird sometimes." The baseball boy grumbled at Yuan Zhou speechlessly.

Only then did he find that after such a long while, the dish had already been cold.

"Boss, the dish is cold now. How will I continue to eat it?" The baseball juvenile said discontentedly.

"The temperature is just fine." Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"What do you mean, boss? This is the meat dish. If I eat it cold, I'm going to suffer from diarrhea." The baseball juvenile indicated that he knew about that common sense.

"For my Dongpo Pig Knuckle, if you don't eat hot, then you'll have to eat it cold. It's not good to be eaten warm." Yuan Zhou crossed the arms against the chest and said with a serious manner.

"Haw?" The baseball juvenile indicated that he didn't understand him.

However, Yuan Zhou explained no more and continued to do his own things.

"Try it. I haven't eaten it cold before." Ling Hong instigated excitedly.

"Can this be eaten cold?" Looking at the pig knuckle that didn't give off steam anymore, the baseball juvenile was quite hesitant.

"Boss Yuan has never violated his principles and hence is called Compass. That's definitely no problem. You try it once and you'll know that?" Ling Hong directly uttered a long speech.

"It seems to be fair enough." The baseball juvenile didn't find anything wrong with his word.

He hadn't actually figured out the relationship between principles and cheating. However, it sounded right.

"Then I'm going to start now." The baseball juvenile took the chopsticks and prepared to eat.

However, he still started with the plain white rice first cautiously and prepared to stuff the stomach with something. That way, he wouldn't feel greasy and risk the diarrhea.

Just when he took the bowl and was about to eat, he suddenly remembered that since the pig knuckle had been cold, so was the rice. Now that the rice was close to his lips, the juvenile

straightforwardly started to eat.

"It's surprisingly still warm." Once the rice entered his mouth, the baseball juvenile found it still warm.

He reached out his hands on the bowl and found it was still warm. And when he touched the pig knuckle, it was indeed quite cold.

"So weird." The juvenile muttered and then ate another two mouthful of rice.

Only then did he start to eat the pig knuckle.

As what he had imagined, the pig knuckle was cold and meanwhile tasted greasy. After all, this stuff wasn't prepared to be eaten cold.

Such kind of meat dishes was usually unpalatable and greasy when eaten cold.

Obviously, the gravy over the pig knuckle had slightly condensed.

"This is the spoon provided by the restaurant." Zhou Jia handed him a spoon.

"Ok, great. Thanks." Just as the juvenile didn't know how to eat it, the spoon was provided.

Habitually, he received the spoon and directly scooped the pig knuckle with it.

"Anyhow, it's the first time for me to eat Dongpo Pig Knuckle with a spoon." While scooping the pig knuckle, the juvenile murmured.

Yet, he could finally eat the dish.

With the help of the spoon, he scooped up a piece of the pig knuckle which had some meat jelly.

It was the beautiful and transparent color of amber. The shaky

meat jelly looked extraordinarily mouth-watering.

"Doesn't look too bad." Ling Hong that was watching aside said positively.

As soon as the pig knuckle went into the juvenile's mouth, the cold meat began to melt slowly upon coming into contact with the warm mouth cavity.

"Slurp slurp". After he chewed a little bit, the soft and crisp meat melted in the mouth. While the meat skin was a little chewy, the meat jelly over the skin carried slight delicate fragrance with a glimmer of tart flavor, which immediately neutralized the taste of the entire pig knuckle.

"So delicious. It turns out to have such a taste when it's cold." The juvenile revealed a surprised expression. After that, he continued scooping it up with the spoon and eating.

As the pig knuckle was stewed for quite a long time, the lean meat had basically all melted upon entering the mouth. With a different processing method, the meat skin nevertheless tasted chewy apart from some stiffness. The more miraculous thing was the meat jelly.

It had a refreshing texture with a slight tart flavor, which totally stimulated people's appetite and brought the best of the taste with less ingredients.

When the juvenile got to the central part, the bone inside made from the smooth and soft carrageen then showed up.

The juvenile tried to scoop it with the spoon as usual and then found the bone, which was made from the carrageen, was no longer smooth and soft. Instead, it was of little elasticity when he poked it as if it were the real fruit jelly.

"How miraculous! It's solidified, isn't it?" The juvenile poked it for several times with interest before he broke a piece off and ate it.

When the bone was poked, it was like the fruit jelly; when eaten, it was more like the fruit jelly. It was just that the texture of the fruit jelly was crisp like the feeling of the cold carrageen dish.

"Boss Yuan, is it because of the carrageen in the central part that this dish couldn't be eaten warm?" Ling Hong had not only sharp eyesight, but also an accurate judgement. He figured it out very soon.

"You are right. The warmth will affect the texture." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and then said affirmatively.

"Because of an extra ingredient, a simple dish could be eaten with two different eating methods. And it looks like the texture is different in both cases." Ling Hong heaved a sigh with emotion.

"Boss Yuan has refreshed my opinion of the Dongpo Pig Knuckle again." Another customer was also quite surprised.

"A Dongpo Pig Knuckle can be so delicious. There's surprisingly the second eating method now. It appears that Boss Yuan does that just because of his continuous pursuit of perfection." The customer indicated that he was luckily not a Virgo. Otherwise, he would be quite alike to Boss Yuan and would definitely be speechless with himself.

"Boss Yuan is beyond godlike!" Just judging from his tone, he was known to play online games a lot.

"I only understand what continuous improving means now. Do I need to go back and write the report three more times until it's perfect before I hand it in?" A customer took his phone and muttered to himself.

"Three times is not enough. I believe Boss Yuan definitely has tried for no more than 10 times. You can try to keep up with him." The other customer suggested.

"Great. This is so Boss Yuan." Ling Hong indicated that no wonder he liked eating the dishes here.

Only with the perfection-seeking and earnest attitude could one cook the delicious things.

"What do you think if we order one serving of pig knuckle and split the cost? Let's try to eat it cold." A customer at the side had started to plan to savor the new taste.

"It's a brilliant idea. How do you want to split it?" The two customers reached an agreement and directly discussed how to share this single dish.

"Fifty fifty." It sounded to be a fairly reasonable method.

One took the lead and others would follow. Then, many customers began to find partners from those whom they are familiar with or had ever talked before. That way, they could eat the Dongpo Pig Knuckle.

Never belittle the resolution of a foodie.

Chapter 313: Provocation from a Professional Chef

The second eating method of the Dongpo Pig Knuckle instantly aroused other customers' interest. More and more people began to order the pig knuckle and split them evenly with the other, naturally to eat after it became cold.

In order to eat the pig knuckle with two different tastes, Wu Hai specially invited Wu Lin to eat here. Then, the customers beside them witnessed again the difference between a big eater and a foodie.

It was going to be the National Day soon. Yuan Zhou was prepared to serve the exotic cuisines at that time as benefits to the customers. Of course, he still didn't create any publicity for that.

In the meantime, Yuan Zhou also noticed that the decoration works not far from his restaurant was drawing to an end.

The shop sign was hung out. It looked pretty high-end and superior and the name was also elegant.

"Masterwork Nonsuch." Yuan Zhou stared at the shop sign for a long time and finally recalled the English words taught by his teacher. Eventually, he got to know it was the meaning of "the best" in Chinese.

"Judging from the appearance, it's supposedly a dining place." Yuan Zhou wasn't quite sure.

The long-lost curiosity of Yuan Zhou immediately popped up. He went a few steps up and prepared to wander around the store and confirm his own speculation.

"Looks pretty large. It's almost as big as four stores." While wandering around, Yuan Zhou said.

After a lap, Yuan Zhou basically confirmed the size and

decoration style of the store.

Obviously, it was decorated with the style of a western restaurant. Seated behind the side street, the kitchen was actually at the back alley where the back door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant was. The entire restaurant was of a western European decoration style that was magnificent and artistic.

Over the dining tables were brown table linen. Plus the glass star lanterns, he felt that every detail was perfect and made it appear luxurious.

"It seems to be providing a high-end dining service." Yuan Zhou stroked his forehead and said with some affirmation.

He looked back at his own restaurant. It was not far from here, no more than 30 meters as the crow flies.

Yuan Zhou further compared the two restaurants and then found that there wasn't comparability at all. One was magnificent, elegant, high-end western European decoration style while the other was merely a tiny restaurant without even a shop sign.

"Totally defeated in the aspect of decorations. Luckily, I'm an awesome master chef to-be." Soon, Yuan Zhou said with full of confidence.

After all, he could totally surpass most chefs on their craftsmanship. Of course, it must be the dishes that Yuan Zhou had mastered.

It was still lively at the entrance of the magnificently decorated restaurant. Therefore, Yuan Zhou appeared slightly showy while standing at the entrance for quite a while.

Then, a man came up and asked him.

"What can I do for you?" asked him courteously. It was the supervisor in charge of the decoration work.

"Nothing. I am just wandering around for a look." Yuan Zhou

shook his head.

"Please stay further away. It is not safe here." The man pointed at the safety helmet over his head and signaled Yuan Zhou to keep further away.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou accepted the good advice and nodded the head, preparing to leave after he turned around.

"Isn't it Boss Yuan? You are not sculpting today, are you?" A melodious and affirmative female voice passed.

"Um?" Yuan Zhou turned the head and responded with a nod casually and then intended to leave.

To those whom he didn't know, Yuan Zhou was always reluctant to get along with them. Interpersonal communication was tiring.

"Hold on. Let me introduce myself to you, Boss Yuan. I'm the person in charge of this restaurant, Niu Li." It was the short-haired woman that spoke. The man who stood beside her with a manner of gentleman was naturally the chef, Li Li.

It was really a coincidence. When the renovations entered its final stages, Li Li requested to add something that he was used to having in the kitchen.

To show her respect, Niu Li, namely the short-haired woman, accompanied him here in person. After they discussed the matter with the renovation workers, they bumped into Yuan Zhou upon going out of the door. Naturally, Niu Li wanted to give Yuan Zhou some pressure. Therefore, she started.

"Um." Yuan Zhou nodded his head indifferently.

With his current craftsmanship and assets, Yuan Zhou didn't really need to force himself to do anything. After all, his ambition was to become a Master Chef rather than make more money from the business. Therefore, it was his freedom whether to answer anybody or not and how to answer him.

"This is the executive head chef to-be of our restaurant, Mr Li Li." Despite Yuan Zhou's cold face, Niu Li continued saying.

Yuan Zhou looked toward him and found him a little familiar. However, he didn't say anything.

With such an abrupt introduction, Yuan Zhou really didn't want to greet him.

"Our head chef Mr. Li Li is a skilled individual internationally and has been doing this job for more than 10 years." Niu Li was quite proud when she introduced that.

"So...?" Yuan Zhou felt more puzzled. Even if this head chef had been doing this job longer than that, is that anything to do with him?"

"You have perfect culinary skills, but you are still just a young member compared to Mr Li. He's very famous internationally." Niu Li explained, seemingly with a good intention.

In the chef industry, seniority must be given top priority, of which Yuan Zhou was very clear. In any case, he had a lot of experience working in the kitchen of a hotel.

So what? Life and death is of no importance, if one is challenged, one should take it on. Yuan Zhou felt it a little funny. However, he managed to refrain himself in order to maintain his aloof manner as usual.

"Lady, I don't think I know you. Bye." Yuan Zhou shrugged and then left directly.

"You have boosted the regional GDP alone? I have seen your menu. The dishes are merely home dishes that require little culinary skills. But I have to admit the taste is not bad." Li Li, who had kept silent just now, suddenly uttered.

Moreover, he judged his dishes unreservedly as soon as he spoke.

"I'd like to invite you to savor the genuine delicacy that I will

cook personally. My treat." With a frown, Li Li looked at Yuan Zhou's casual clothes and said again.

"But this is an official western restaurant. You need to wear formal clothes." Li Li immediately reminded him.

"Ho Ho. Thank you, but I won't invite you to savor my craftsmanship." Yuan Zhou hadn't encountered such a conceited man for a long time and thus became a little curious.

"I don't need to." Li Li answered positively and confidently.

"It's not because of that. It's because I don't want to invite you." Yuan Zhou's attitude was still as calm as before.

"If you like, you can join our team. Your position will be the head chef." As an executive head chef, Li Li was also good at poaching skilled personnel.

But he had obviously forgotten that Yuan Zhou was the guy who had refused to sell his restaurant.

"Ho Ho." Concerning the offer of Li Li, Yuan Zhou didn't want to say a single word.

Moreover, he suddenly thought of a conceited saying, "You would never know what genuine strength is."

If it wasn't inappropriate, Yuan Zhou just wanted to say so.

"Learning more about cooking is the only way out for you young cooks." Despite his young age of 30, Li Li had the demeanor of an elder. When he said that to Yuan Zhou, he was like instructing a youth of his family.

He paid much attention to Yuan Zhou after Niu Li told him that it was Yuan Zhou's restaurant that was their only rival in this street. Of course, he wouldn't believe the bullshit that Yuan Zhou could boost the regional GDP alone.

Nevertheless, Li Li fully respected the occupation of chef, therefore he offered the invitation several times.

"Actually, I feel you guys are really odd. I don't think I know you, so are you seriously talking with me?" After Yuan Zhou said that, he turned around and left. This time, he didn't stop anymore.

It was likewise tiring to hear others babble on.

"He's pretty prideful. But he'll understand what I mean after he loses all his customers." Li Li didn't have a good temper. He straightforwardly brought out the confident words.

Likewise, Niu Li naturally agreed with him.

Chapter 314: A Conflict That Started Without Any Declaration

Although Niu Li agreed with Li Li's word, she still reminded dutifully, "Mr Li, Mr Yuan's culinary skills are truly perfect. It couldn't be better if he joined us and worked in our restaurant."

"I know. That's why I invited him just now." Li Li nodded his head.

"Do you think it possible for him to come and work for us now?" Niu Li asked cautiously.

"No, not until his restaurant is closed," looking at Yuan Zhou's back, Li Li said positively.

"We'll rely on you for that, Mr Li." Niu Li sighed in her heart. The answer was just as expected. However, her words were still spoken to Li Li earnestly.

"Um. I will let him know opening a restaurant does not only require delicious dishes," Li Li said affirmatively.

"Of course. We adhere to the idea that the customers will feel at home in our restaurant," Niu Li said proudly.

"Don't forget our agreement. I'm leaving now." Li Li turned the head and took a glance at Niu Li and then reminded.

"Sure. Don't worry, Mr Li, we'll keep an eye on the remaining stores," Niu Li agreed readily.

"Um." Li Li nodded his head and directly left.

It seemed that Li Li didn't join their restaurants because of the high percentage of shares offered. He actually had other conditions.

Of course, Yuan Zhou didn't care about that. He just felt he had come across two people that just came out from the jungle and thus

didn't take it to heart.

Furthermore, he had also bumped into other matters at the moment, like the man in front of him.

Like any other successful person, he was dressed elegantly in an exquisite business suit and leather shoes. His hair was combed neatly and the leather shoes were glistening.

Standing in front of Yuan Zhou, this man well represented the three words of "Successful Business Man".

However, Yuan Zhou was fairly confused at the moment.

If he had to describe it, it would be that he had met three weird people by now.

"Hello, Boss Yuan," the man said calmly with his mild voice. He looked like an easy-going person.

"Um." Yuan Zhou wasn't interested in such a cordial greeting and thus just answered lightly.

"Boss Yuan, I have to bother you with something." When the man said that, he was very modest.

"What's the matter?" On hearing that, Yuan Zhou asked while sitting in the seat.

Yes, after Yuan Zhou came back, he took a seat on the chair at the door and was prepared to sculpt.

Before he started, however, the man walked toward him.

"I want to treat others to lunch at noon today. Could you give us two seats together?" This person had been here once for Egg Fried Rice.

He felt the dishes here were truly delicious although they were also expensive. Due to the superb taste, the price was actually moderate, not too high and not too low. The simple environment was also suitable for the invitee's status, thus he wouldn't feel constrained.

"You have to wait in line by yourselves before that. There is a two-seat table. If you can get your turn, you can eat there." Yuan Zhou pointed at the two-seat table in the restaurant and said lightly.

"Can I make a reservation in advance?" the man asked again.

"No reservation, no takeout, no cutting in line and no waste." Yuan Zhou brought out quite a few NO's in one breath.

The man became speechless with all those NO's.

"More rules in Boss Yuan's restaurant now. Are there more dishes?" The man didn't really mind Yuan Zhou talking to him while seating, but just replied speechlessly.

"Of course, there are more dishes." Yuan Zhou nevertheless nodded the head and answered him naturally.

"Even I can't make the reservation?" The man looked at the watch and asked. He still wanted to convince Yuan Zhou.

It made sense that he asked this way. His name was Li Cheng. Although he wasn't a star actor, he often appeared in the business newspaper. He was a very famous young entrepreneur.

He was only 25 this year and had earned hundreds of millions of assets. The most important was that he started the business from nothing.

He was born in an ordinary family and accomplished his current status with his wits and grasping opportunities.

A person like him would be offered with a compromise everywhere.

Li Cheng had only been here once and eaten Egg Fried Rice for lunch when Yuan Zhou just started his business.

At that time, there weren't many customers inside. Even the eight seats couldn't be occupied fully.

If not that the matter was very important to him this time, he

wouldn't have remembered this place.

Thankfully, he had a good memory, otherwise it wouldn't be so easy to find a clean and neat restaurant that served delicious and moderate-priced dishes, yet with only a few customers. Furthermore, it wouldn't make people feel stiff.

Especially since this matter was handled by Li Cheng himself. He was not the secretary and could only look for a right place in his memory. At last, he found Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"No, you can't." While Li Cheng was lost in a trance, Yuan Zhou directly refused.

"Can I book the entire place?" Li Cheng looked at the restaurant and then at Yuan Zhou.

"Do you think I'm short of money?" Even with Yuan Zhou's patience, he got annoyed after coming into contact with three strangers one after another.

"Then Boss Yuan, please give me the menu." Li Cheng neither got angry nor asked again, even if he felt Yuan Zhou's business was really bad. Of course, it might be getting better now.

It was just because he made an awkward requirement; so, Li Cheng was very magnanimous.

"There's still half an hour left before business time starts. You can see the menu then." Yuan Zhou refused him again.

"You really have a temper." Li Cheng stroked his sleeves and then said calmly.

"See you at noon." Having ignored Li Cheng, Yuan Zhou straightforwardly said goodbye to him and returned to his own restaurant.

Only then did Li Cheng calm down.

"As expected, I am nervous. What did I do just now? I was surprisingly so hot-headed," Li Cheng exhaled and then said

dumbly.

During normal times, Li Cheng was patient, meticulous and calm like a middle-aged man. He was also like a dormant snake that was waiting to land a killing blow.

If not so, how could he create such a huge business?

With a frown, he took out the phone and started to make a call. Once it was connected, the phone was answered at the other end.

"President Li, what do you want me to arrange?" A competent male voice passed to him.

"Tell President Zhang to send the man here now. I'm waiting at No. 14 of Taoxi Road right now," Li Cheng said concisely.

"Alright. I will call him right away." The man didn't ask much, but merely agreed immediately.

"Um." Li Cheng hung off the phone.

Thinking that he was going to see the person soon, Li Cheng became nervous again.

Only after he wandered for two circles did he react and stand straight to wait.

It was just that Yuan Zhou lacked the inquisitiveness. If other people saw such a young business genius waiting for someone so anxiously, God knows how curious they would be. They might have already inquired.

Man Man who had arrived earlier today asked Yuan Zhou secretly.

"Hey, isn't that Li Cheng? Who do you think he's waiting? Look, he's surprisingly nervous." Man Man asked with a low voice.

"I don't know. Do you know him?" Yuan Zhou first shook the head and then asked curiously.

"Boss Yuan, you really pay no attention to outside matters. He's a

celebrity in the local area and a famous business talent who has started his giant business empire from nothing. Besides, he is the dream lover of many girls," Man Man said excitedly with an obvious expression of "I like him very much" on her face.

Yuan Zhou looked at him earnestly and then nodded the head, "Although he's a little inferior to me, he has done well. No wonder he is so popular."

"..." Man Man got speechless.

"Business isn't open yet. Come later." Regardless of Man Man's expression, Yuan Zhou pointed to the door and said coldly.

Of course, he wasn't saying that to get revenge on her for being despised. After all, Yuan Zhou always believed himself to be a man of noble character.

Chapter 315: Li Cheng Failing in Acting Cool

"Tsk tsk. It's the same every time." Man Man shrugged speechlessly.

Then she went out obediently. Out there, she could appreciate the young talent.

In a moment, Zhou Jia that had already started working in the restaurant came out of the door.

"Everybody, come in, please. Business hours start now," Zhou Jia said to the customers outside.

"It's truly precise without any slightest error. The sense of time of Boss Yuan should be specially trained," a customer murmured.

"Absolutely. My superior has praised me for my better sense of time recently," another customer directly followed.

"That's a good thing," another one said smilingly.

"How can it not be good? We have to calculate every single minute in order to eat here. Of course, we have been used to that after a long time." Despite a manner of helplessness, the customer was apparently happy. It could be seen from his expression and sight.

When the business hours started, all the customers except one were delighted.

It was Li Cheng. He had originally thought this restaurant was quiet and had few people; the taste and price were both good; and the best part was this place was close to the invitee.

With a glance now, however, it was extremely clamorous rather than peace and quiet.

It made him quite irritable when he looked at the long line behind and the man who kept a distance from him at the side.

"Come in, please." Li Cheng made way for the man behind him so

that he could come in.

Lucky that not many people knew Li Cheng, except Wu Hai, Man Man and Manager Shi.

After all, he wasn't a star actor. If not introduced specially or observed carefully, they were unlikely to recognize him. There was still some difference between the real person and the image on the newspaper.

"Please, you first." The man invited by Li Cheng was quite restrained and totally didn't know what to do. Therefore, he had only to point at the door and say.

"You are my guest today. So you first. Never mind." Li Cheng spoke mildly as if they were completely equal.

"I don't deserve this. Please." The man waved the hand continuously and stayed there unmoved.

"It's not good that we get stuck here. Let's go inside together." Seeing the man being reluctant to enter the restaurant, Li Cheng could only suggest that.

"Ok, sure. Please," said the man uneasily. With a slightly hunched back, the man looked around forty or fifty.

Li Cheng was a little helpless. He had to enter the restaurant ahead of the man when he saw the firm manner of him.

After the courtesy, they attracted much attention as they didn't seem to be in tune.

Dressed in an exquisite and tailored business suit, Li Cheng appeared neat and tidy from head to foot and looked serious and earnest.

Even the watch on his wrist, the shoes on the feet and the tiny accessories revealed that Li Cheng wasn't an ordinary person. The man courteously greeted by Li Cheng was completely opposite.

He was wearing the work clothes stained with the grime and

definitely looked to be a worker in the building site. The short hair was dusty, the face wasn't clean, and naturally the shoes were likewise full of grime, which even made others doubt if he would leave a path of grime wherever he went.

The only thing considered to be clean on his body might be his hands. With his thick finger knuckles, he looked to be a man that was doing hard-labor work at the first glance. They didn't seem to have intersections between the two of them.

"Who do you think that is?" Man Man knocked Wu Hai beside her with her elbow and said curiously.

"How do I know?" Except for eating and drawing, Wu Hai seemed to have no interest in other things.

"Anyhow, this big boss, Li Cheng, is a young magnate. This man, however, looks pretty common." Man Man analyzed, pretending to be serious.

"You say common? He's just a building worker. This big boss is toying with him." Ling Hong looked at the two quite different people and said discontentedly.

"What background do you think the man has? I don't believe such a big boss will treat him a meal for nothing." The customers also discussed in a low voice.

"He might be somebody that hides his light under a bushel," the customer speculated randomly.

"I guess he's the father of the big boss that has separated with him for long," a customer guessed.

"You must have read too much novels. I feel he's merely an ordinary person. Can't you see he is so nervous?" Another customer in line said positively.

"Yeah. How could he treat his father in a way like treating a friend?" the customer said doubtfully.

"Then you tell me why this seemingly powerful big boss is treating such a person like him to a meal." The customer who made the random speculation said, unwilling to admit defeat.

"I can't understand the thoughts of those bosses. If I could, I would have already been a boss myself." This customer was a frank person. He clearly admitted that he didn't know.

"Apparently, they are just the boss and worker." This customer had very sharp eyes.

One could easily tell this man was nervous and constrained at the first glance, although Li Cheng appeared fairly easy-going.

Just because of that, the customers showed much curiosity and started the discussion in a low voice. What kind of charm did the farmer-like man have to such an extent that made the big boss treat him to a meal. More importantly, this big boss was so easy-going and kind.

As a topic of the discussion, the man dressed in the work clothes was called Zhang Fan. He was indeed working on the building site and was responsible for the plastering indoors. However, he was also puzzled right now.

When it was about the time for lunch today, the foreman brought the manager to him and told him that somebody was looking for him in a hurry.

Not to mention washing up, he didn't even get time to change his clothes before he was sent here by his manager in a car to see this strange person. The key point was that he was the big boss mentioned by the manager, the boss of the entire building project.

No matter how odd this thing seemed to, Zhang Fan didn't and couldn't say anything. After all, he was merely a worker and his salary over the year was still unpaid. In the building industry, the convention was to give workers living expenses every month and all the remaining at the end of the year.

The only thing that he felt lucky was that he washed his hands before he came here. The hands were clean.

"Check the menu and see what you want to eat." With a smile, Li Cheng handed the exquisite menu to the man naturally.

"Ok. Thank you." Zhang Fan looked at the clean menu and wiped his hands with his inner clothes without a trace before he took it.

Upon seeing the dishes, he became even more uneasy.

The dishes were definitely not for him. A simple Egg Fried Rice cost 188 RMB and more than that, a Tea Egg cost 1888 RMB. If not that the big boss in sight was looking at him smilingly, he really wanted to scold, "Are these damn dishes really for customers to eat rather than being watched? With such high prices, who would be willing to eat them?"

Therefore, Zhang Fan took the menu and kept silent for a long while, not daring to order dishes nor say anything.

"Let me order some for you. You are doing some hard work and may like to eat some meat." After a glance at the menu, Li Cheng instantly blamed himself for being so careless. Then he took the menu and said to him.

"No need. Boss, please tell me directly if you have anything to talk to me." Zhang Fan couldn't bear the atmosphere and uttered to ask.

"Nothing important. Just a meal." Li Cheng tried to comfort him.

"Alright. You order." When Zhang Fan found that Li Cheng didn't really seem to have something to tell him, he had only to answer that way.

"Ok. Let me do it." Li Cheng nodded the head and revealed a smile.

"Young girl, please get us Dongpo Pig Knuckle, Phoenix-Tail Prawns, Translucent Beef Slices, Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy

Minced Pork, Steamed Tofu with Minced Pork and two servings of Egg Fried Rice as well as a serving of Jinling Grass." Li Cheng was quite generous. He basically ordered everything on the menu.

Even Man Man uttered in a low voice, "Rich guy."

Even before he finished acting cool, however, he was interrupted by Zhou Jia smilingly, "I'm sorry. All the dishes ordered by customers have to be eaten up completely. Of course, the main dishes, I mean. There's no requirement for the side dishes."

"What do you mean?" Li Cheng knitted the brows.

"If you leave them unfinished, you'll never be admitted in again," Zhou Jia said earnestly.

That was way too fresh. It was the very first time that somebody had spoken to him that way after he became succesful.

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Chapter 316: The Idea From A Meal

"Ouch. The big boss seems to be aching in the face," a customer said in a whisper.

"Yeah, he is. How does he dare to act cool in front of the Compass? If he dares to order so many dishes, he needs to be prepared to be blacklisted." This customer felt it a little funny.

"It's good to have one less. I could probably wait for less people to get my turn next time." This was a customer who was happy to see that happen.

"Do you think the big boss is going to be mad?" Another customer looked at the slightly irritated expression of Li Cheng with curiosity.

"I don't think so. They are all smart people. How could he get angry so easily?" This customer shook the head decidedly.

"But I think he will. What a shame it is to lose face especially in front of this worker whose identity is still unknown to us!" Although he spoke of losing face, he nevertheless seemed to take pleasure in that.

"Look! It's coming." Another customer pointed at Li Cheng secretly and said.

"We can get it packed and take it away if we can't eat up all." Li Cheng was indeed a little angry in the heart. But since so many people were here and it wasn't really a big matter, he couldn't lose his temper and thus had to change another way to say.

"I'm sorry, sir. We don't provide take-out service," Zhou Jia said with an apologetic expression.

"The rules are truly getting more and more." Li Cheng couldn't help frowning. When he saw Zhang Fan who had been so constrained, however, he didn't stand up and leave.

He raised the head, preparing to see Yuan Zhou's reaction, but nevertheless found this guy had always been doing his own work ever since the beginning, that was, to prepare the dishes.

Then, Li Cheng became even more speechless. He was simply disregarded completely. Luckily, he was here today to treat others "Um..." Li Cheng was considering.

Seated beside him, Zhang Fan just looked at Li Cheng's clothes and collar silently with a respectful manner.

"Just remove the Sautéed Vermicelli with Spicy Minced Pork and Steamed Tofu with Minced Pork from my ordered dishes. That's it." Having thought for a while, Li Cheng removed two dishes.

"Please confirm your dishes." After that, Zhou Jia reported all his dishes once.

"Yes, they are all my dishes." Li Cheng nodded the head.

"Pay first, please. You can either make the bank transfer or pay by cash. Only RMB is accepted." Zhou Jia said smilingly.

"Ok. I will pay by transfer." Li Cheng took out the phone and made the wire transfer through internet.

After confirming receipt of the money, Zhou Jia then reported the dishes to Yuan Zhou. In the meantime, she also greeted Li Cheng and Zhang Fan.

"Hold on, please. The dishes are to be served very soon." Zhou Jia was a very dutiful waitress.

This time, Li Cheng didn't answer her. He just nodded the head and indicated he was clear about it.

After Zhou Jia left, Li Cheng started to do his own thing.

"Mr. Zhang Fan, you weren't living in Chengdu City before, right?" Li Cheng asked gently.

"Yes, I came from the north." Zhang Fan felt a little inexplicable, but still he answered.

"There was a mole on your face before. Why is it gone now?" Having checked twice Zhang Fan's face, Li Cheng asked him.

"It's been gone for a long time. When people get older, they disappear," Zhang Fan stroked his chin and said with indifference.

"Did you often go back to your hometown by train?" Speaking of trains, Li Cheng appeared extraordinarily gentle.

"Not too frequent. I didn't have so much time at that time." Basically, Zhang Fan answered only when he was asked, without a single word more.

He just felt it strange in his heart. On one hand, the big boss had nothing special to tell him. On the other hand, he asked about his personal affairs although it wasn't invading his privacy.

Other customers that listened to them at the side felt stranger. Not to mention the weird combination of the two people, their conversation also sounded odd.

From their conversation, they didn't know each other at all before. That was to say, they were unlikely to be in one company.

If they were in one company, the boss would definitely know his staff and might treat any of them to a meal. They shouldn't have been so unfamiliar with each other.

However, Li Cheng's questioning didn't last long. The words "hold on" said by Zhou Jia were really not long. The dishes were served to them in a very short moment.

The surrounding customers all thought that Li Cheng and Zhang Fan would have the meal individually and separately, for which even Zhang Fan thought like that.

He carefully waited for Li Cheng to pick the dishes first and then he picked those that were not liked by the big boss to stuff his stomach.

"Let's eat together. Feel at home, please. It's just a treat. Nothing

special." Li Cheng took the chopsticks and said directly.

He conveniently picked up a piece of pig knuckle and put it in Zhang Fan's bowl and then he started to eat his own.

Zhang Fan only started to eat when he found Li Cheng truly didn't mind eating together with him. However, he was eating very carefully and didn't pick any dishes. It was contrarily Li Cheng who picked the dishes for him occasionally.

The moment he gulped down the dishes, Zhang Fan got to know why the food and dishes here were so expensive. It was because they were way much too delicious.

He almost wanted to swallow his own tongue up. Speaking of which, it was the first for him to eat such delicious food.

Delicacies could shorten the distance between two people. While eating the tasty dishes, Zhang Fan was no longer nervous like before. He even started to pick the dishes by himself sometimes.

As for Li Cheng, he likewise finally understood where Yuan Zhou's pride came from. With such a superb craftsmanship, he certainly didn't need to worry about anything else.

"I thought only the Egg Fried Rice is delicious in this restaurant." Li Cheng said dumbly in the heart.

Even so, Li Cheng was still unhappy as it took him too much time to wait in line. Actually, he didn't have that much time to waste on this place.

"Maybe I can let my secretary come and wait in line for me." Li Cheng drafted a feasible scenario quietly.

He turned the head and then saw Zhang Fan eating contentedly there without any of the former restraint.

Li Cheng didn't like talking while eating. And Zhang Fan also enjoyed the silence. The more they ate, the happier they became. At last, they even ate up all the dishes.

As Zhang Fan was doing the hard physical labor, he liked eating the greasy meat dishes a lot. The crisp and soft Dongpo Pig Knuckle and the spicy and fragrant Translucent Beef Slices matched with the palatable Egg Fried Rice were all his favorite.

Almost more than half of the dishes were eaten by him alone.

Although the earlier stage of the meal wasn't so satisfactory, the host and the guest nevertheless ended up happy. At least, Li Cheng was rest assured when he saw Zhang Fan eat so happily.

"Let's go. I can drive you to the building site." Looking at the clean plate and the clean table, Li Cheng said smilingly.

"No need. It's not far. I can walk back." Zhang Fan waved the hand continuously.

What a joke! He had been tired of staying with this big boss. God knows what he meant by treating him to the meal.

"Let's get out first. Look, so many people are still waiting." Li Cheng pointed at the customers that waited in line.

"Alright. Yes." While speaking, Zhang Fan stood up, leaving behind some dust from the pants.

Without anybody noticing, the dust just fell off on the ground quietly rather than float in the air. Even when other people stepped on it afterwards, it still didn't fly up.

With a manner of extreme embarrassment, Zhang Fan walked out of the restaurant in quick steps and then let out a sigh of relief secretly.

He didn't feel it while having meal, but when they finished, Zhang Fan nevertheless got embarrassed with his dirty clothes.

"Let's have dinner together again later on." Li Cheng said that just after they walked out.

"No, not necessary. It's been a big bother to you today." Zhang Fan waved the hand and refused flatly.

"It doesn't matter. I have talked to your manager. And I still have some questions that only you could answer." Li Cheng talked primly as if he really had something important to ask him.

"Ok, sorry for bothering you." Zhang Fan opened his mouth slightly. But when he thought of the result that he was brought out immediately once the big boss made a call, he no longer refused.

It was just unknown what the big boss was thinking. Is he really the son of the worker?...

Chapter 317: The Delight of A Popsicle

Several days later...

"Boss Yuan, Boss Yuan, surprising news." A man suddenly ran into the restaurant and said anxiously.

It was the break time between breakfast and lunch when there wasn't anybody in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Even Zhou Jia hadn't arrived yet.

Only Yuan Zhou was there, preparing the dishes for lunch, alone.

Hearing that, he raised the head and looked toward the person.

"What's wrong, Wu Zhou?" Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled.

"Hey! How could you still be so calm? There seems to be a new western restaurant not far from here. Look, it's the invitation letter." Seeing Yuan Zhou's motionless manner, Wu Zhou became quite worried. While speaking, he handed an exquisite card to Yuan Zhou.

The appearance of the card was fairly magnificent. It was wrapped in an invitation bag and the paper felt like the fine and smooth silk cloth.

"Is your company holding the annual meeting so early?" Yuan Zhou received the invitation card and asked with puzzlement.

"Noooope. It's the newly-opened restaurant next door. Look!" Showing the whites of his eyes, Wu Zhou pointed at the invitation letter and said solemnly "Um, I know. Thanks." After a nod and thanks, Yuan Zhou nevertheless didn't intend to leave the restaurant at all.

"Then why are you still be so calm? This is a high-end restaurant right beside you!" Wu Zhou said anxiously while pointing at the outside.

Having paused a while, he continued, "Of course, I am still in

favor of you, Boss Yuan."

"Thanks." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

Seeing Wu Zhou staring at him constantly, he opened the invitation letter symbolically and prepared to have a look.

It was quite formal. It started with the courteous addressing of Wu Zhou, behind of which was the content.

The content was long. It was summarized by Yuan Zhou himself as, [Our restaurant is going to be open for business on Oct. 1. We wish you could come around and taste our dishes.]

The remaining was sort of polite greetings.

The entire invitation letter took on a splendid rose red. With the dark fringes printed, the texture felt superior in his hand.

"It's a splendid invitation letter. Furthermore, it's very formal." Yuan Zhou remarked justly.

"Isn't it a threat? Boss Yuan, do you think their dishes are tasty?" Wu Zhou asked curiously.

"The head chef is said to be a senior culinary artist, so the dishes are supposedly not bad." Yuan Zhou's remarks were always made to the point.

"A culinary artist?" Wu Zhou wasn't a chef and hence didn't know the meaning of it.

"It's another appellation of a chef," Yuan Zhou said concisely and comprehensively.

"What is the taste of the dishes like compared with yours, Boss Yuan?" Wu Zhou asked with an evil laugh.

"There isn't a comparability between their dishes and mine. I'm doing better than them," Yuan Zhou said seriously and earnestly.

"Er... Boss Yuan, couldn't you be at least a little modest?" Wu Zhou said speechlessly.

"I'm telling the truth. When does telling a truth become immodest?" Yuan Zhou frowned and became puzzled. He didn't mean anything else at all and was truly confused.

"..." Wu Zhou had nothing to say to answer.

"Isn't it so?" Yuan Zhou asked.

"Yeah, yeah, sure. Boss Yuan is the best." Wu Zhou talked as if he were coaxing a kid.

Of course, he also thought the same in the heart. After all, how could he take a fancy to dishes of other restaurants after he had eaten those of Yuan Zhou's restaurant?

However, it was possible for him to go and have a try.

Nevertheless, no restaurant would like to do a one-off business and refuse repeat customers.

If not, how would they run the chain business later?

"Speaking of which, are you worried about that, Boss Yuan?" Wu Zhou was actually only curious about Yuan Zhou's attitude toward that.

"Should I? With the restaurant being here, those who can't get their turn in my restaurant could eat nearby. Actually, I think it's fairly considerate to the customers," Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"Boss Yuan, that was really a fantastic moment of acting cool. You shocked me." Wu Zhou was lost in silence for quite a while and then said.

"Um. Business time will start very soon. Go form the line," said Yuan Zhou.

"Well, alright." Wu Zhou then agreed.

He only reacted when he reached the door.

"Boss Yuan is becoming more and more influential now." Seeing Yuan Zhou' back inside of the kitchen, Wu Zhou sighed with

emotion.

"Gee? It's you two, again." Having arrived at the door, Wu Zhou found the two people who came frequently these few days.

Li Cheng and Zhang Fan. The combination of the two persons were really eye-catching. Now that they stood at the door, Wu Zhou naturally got curious.

"Um. Hello." Li Cheng greeted.

Standing beside him, Zhang Fan just smiled implicitly and said nothing.

"The combination is really strange." Wu Zhou muttered in a low voice.

Li Cheng who stood at the foremost of the line had actually heard him, but he didn't turn around to him.

He didn't really care about others' thought. As long as he could fulfill his own wish, it was good.

"Interesting." When Wu Hai saw them in the latter part of the line, he also said.

Although they often heard of this combination these few days, he still felt it interesting.

Besides, Li Cheng asked Zhang Fan some specious questions every time.

In a little while, the lunch time commenced. As usual, Li Cheng ordered the Dongpo Pig Knuckle and the beef.

The two dishes were Zhang Fan's favorite dishes. Li Cheng managed to find it out after the meals.

Just like the several times before, Li Cheng asked him some odd question while eating. Basically, Zhang Fan answered whatever he could answer.

After the meal, the two persons usual departed respectively.

This time, however, Zhang Fan stopped.

"Big boss, please tell me directly if you have anything to tell me. I don't feel it good if you always offers me such treats." Zhang Fan said with a helpless tone.

"Nothing at all. I just want to eat something with you." Li Cheng said earnestly.

"You are my boss. I can't take it for granted that you treat me the meals again and again. If you really have nothing to talk with me, please don't treat me anymore next time." Zhang Fan's head was full of grey hair and the perennial hard work made his back bend slightly. However, the way he talked was methodical and rigid.

"Even after we had meals for several times, you still didn't recognize me. I reckon you have truly forgotten me." Li Cheng sighed first and suddenly said that.

"I'm sure that I don't know you." Zhang Fan nodded the head affirmatively.

He had lived a simple life. How could be there a chance to know such a big boss?

"Twenty years ago, you served in the army, right?" Li Cheng was still a little excited when he said that.

"Yes. Everyone that knows me knows about that." Zhang Fan was a man of great caution.

He wouldn't believe that a big boss would lay his heart bare to a nobody.

"You took train and went back home for vacation in Aug. of 1993." What Li Cheng said was not a question, but an affirmative sentence.

"Well..." Zhang Fan lost his tongue.

Frankly speaking, he didn't really remember that. He was merely a compulsory serviceman that would finish his duty and go back

home after three years of military service. When there was a home leave, the time was enough long.

Since it happened so long ago, he had already got nowhere to remember that.

"It was extraordinarily hot that year. My mum took me to Jiangsu Province to visit my father. It's really inconvenient for a woman that took her kid alone in that messy train possibly with bad guys." While Li Cheng said that, his tone was always a little excited.

"Er..." Zhang Fan was actually slightly embarrassed.

It was indeed embarrassing that an unacquainted person told some private matters in front of you.

Not to mention that he wasn't really interested in how the big boss made the giant business. He was nearly 40 this year and the time of believing stories had already passed.

Li Cheng just kept talking at the side and took no notice of him as if here were invisible.

"The green train was very slow and it was extremely hot. There was some breeze from the open window. My mum had carried me tight in her arms until she got seated."

"I was told later that even her luggage was carried onto the train by others. It was a more than 30 hours' journey. During the first few hours, she didn't even dare to go to the bathroom." Li Cheng was a little grieved when he thought of the experience.

"I'm sorry. But what are you intending to say?" Zhang Fan broke in at the gap of his conversation.

Li Cheng had done the same in the past few days. Treating, asking, treating, asking. Zhang Fan felt both impatient and perturbed.

With great difficulty, he mentioned that but meanwhile Li Cheng

chattered about something else. Only then did Zhang Fan ask him.

Li Cheng, "..."

Chapter 318: The Delight of A Popsicle (Continuation)

Zhang Fan felt this matter really had nothing to do with him. If not it was the big boss, he would have already left.

Free dishes were never so easy to enjoy, not to mention they were so expensive. He was even unable to afford to offer him a return banquet.

At that time, Li Cheng uttered, "Here's the thing. At that time, my mum dared not to go to the bathroom, nor would she go to get some water.

"Um." In order to show respect, Zhang Fan nodded the head and answered.

"I was very young at that moment and knew little about that, but I knew I couldn't cry for food and water." When Li Cheng said that, he looked at Zhang Fan.

"You were clever even when you were so young." Rarely, Zhang Fan complimented him.

"Thanks. But kids are indeed all clever and sensitive, especially those from poor families," Li Cheng said smilingly.

"It's obvious that you are different from others." Zhang Fan continued saying.

This time, Li Cheng only nodded the head before he continued, "You were dressed in a military uniform and stood right behind me at the door at that moment."

"Me?" On hearing that, Zhang Fan said in surprise while pointing at himself.

"Yes, it's you. You were standing there against the light, thus I couldn't see your appearance clearly. So I looked towards you curiously." Li Cheng said with smiling eyes.

"What happened then?" Zhang Fan knitted his brows and tried hard to recall that.

"Then I found you were eating a popsicle." Li Cheng narrated step by step to let Zhang Fan remember the scene.

When he saw Zhang Fan not react, he continued, "I was very thirsty and it was likewise too hot. Then I asked you for the popsicle relying on my little age."

"You asked me for it? Did I buy it for you?" Zhang Fan said according to the usual conjecture.

Then he tried hard to recollect this matter. As the time suggested, he was merely no more than 20 at that moment and indeed he often went home by train. But the matter of popsicle had truly been forgotten by him.

"No, but you just handed yours to me." Li Cheng shook the head.

"Huh?" Zhang Fan was a little surprised.

Normally, he should have bought another one and given it to him. How did it happen that he gave the one he was eating to others?

"I don't know, either. But I still remember your face turned red, probably because of my fervent sight at you." Following the memory, Li Cheng said slowly.

"With the milk outside, the popsicle tasted so good. It was both ice-cold and sweet. After I ate it, the feeling of thirst and hunger suddenly disappeared." Li Cheng said as if he had recalled the particular taste.

"In those years, there was only that type of popsicle in summer. Yeah, I have a vague impression now." Zhang Fan managed to find this matter in his memory, but the reason he knew of was quite different from that mentioned by Li Cheng.

"Yes. It was the first time that I had eaten the popsicle. Really

delicious." Li Cheng said affirmatively.

"You offered me the treat just because of that?" Zhang Fan indicated that he was fairly astonished.

"I was very young when it happened. It took me a long while to finish eating that popsicle." Li Cheng didn't admit that directly, but the way he spoke revealed so.

After Zhang Fan knew the reason, he kept silent for quite a while and then said "Thank you."

"You remember it, don't you? So you can trust me now that I come to you for nothing else." Li Cheng said gently.

"I misunderstood you." Zhang Fan lowered his head, with the white hair all exposed to other. He was really not young anymore.

"So Mr. Zhang, hope we can have dinner together again the day after tomorrow." Li Cheng said sincerely again.

"Not necessary, but thank you, big boss. I have remembered that matter. The meal you treat me today has made up for the popsicle that I gave to you." Zhang Fan rarely uttered a long speech.

"It's different..." Zhang Fan didn't wait until Li Cheng finished talking before he interrupted him. It was the first time that he had done so today.

"To me, it's fairly enough. Really enough for me, big boss." Zhang Fan looked steadily at Li Cheng and said earnestly.

"Well, ok. I never get an opportunity to say thanks. Thank you so much for your popsicle." Li Cheng thanked him sincerely.

"Don't say that. I'm leaving now." Seeing Li Cheng agree, Zhang Fan got relieved and started to say goodbye hurriedly.

"Ok, goodbye." Li Cheng said goodbye to him readily this time. Only when he saw Zhang Fan walk away farther did he leave then.

The two people didn't lower their voice intentionally in the conversation, therefore the customers in the restaurant and in the

front of the line all heard them.

After a while of silence, a customer suddenly uttered, some not very nice words.

"No wonder this man called Zhang Fan lived so hard and poor. He's merely a building worker moving bricks. And he really deserves that."

"Why are you so mean?" Another customer knitted his brows discontentedly.

"Hey, ain't I right? He should definitely seize this rare opportunity. The big boss owes him and also admits that. What a great opportunity he's got! Doesn't he deserve the hard life since he didn't take a chance when there's one?" The customer humphed and continued saying.

Hearing that, most customers felt it indeed made sense and slightly agreed with him in the heart.

"People think differently. That man Zhang Fan never thought Li Cheng owes him", Manager Shi suddenly said that.

"Li Cheng? Wait, you say he's the legendary Half City Li?" The customers suddenly reacted and said excitedly.

"It's him." Manager Shi nodded the head affirmatively.

Then, the discussion about the opportunity instantly changed direction in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Almost all of them started to talk about Li Cheng's successful story. His influence was well known from the scene.

People were always curious about those who built a business empire from nothing.

A faint smile appeared on Yuan Zhou's face, but he didn't take part in the top discussion from the beginning to the end.

The fact was presumably the same to what Manager Shi said.

Due to the incident in that summer, Li Cheng's taste preference changed. He started to like eating the popsicle which was milk flavored. Under the condition that his physical health allowed, he ate one almost everyday.

Moreover, he had natural favorability to those who wore military uniform ever since then. After he succeeded in the business, he brought out some amount of money every year to help those veterans. Of course, he did that for free. The posts in the building sites and other fields of his company were all open to the veterans preferentially.

And so on. Such similar deeds were all resulted from that single popsicle in that stuffy train where he had felt extremely thirsty.

The particular matter was a nice experience to Li Cheng.

Walking on the way back, however, Zhang Fan didn't think that way.

"Sigh." He heaved a sigh in a low voice and continued walking forward.

He was a little ashamed today when he heard the big boss came to him because of a popsicle that had been bitten twenty years ago.

Yes, he was ashamed.

Once the fact was brought back in his mind, the feeling at that moment likewise came back and it also reminded Zhang Fan of this matter.

"Never expected it's because of that." Zhang Fan was a little speechless.

He failed in buying a seat ticket when he went back home by train that year and had to stand at the door. As it was too hot, he bought a popsicle and prepared to quench his thirst.

He had only eaten several bite of the popsicle before he saw a boy staring at him. Then he turned around, but the boy still tilted the

head and stared at him persistently.

At last, he really couldn't find a place to hide. Therefore he handed the popsicle in his hand out unexpectedly for he didn't have enough money to buy another one. After all, people didn't have much money in those years.

He was quite embarrassed. The popsicle melted in the high temperature and flowed down onto his hand. It was a sticky feeling.

With the sense of shame of having no money for another popsicle and the embarrassment of giving one that had been bitten to others, he walked to another carriage and waited to get off the train.

Therefore, it wasn't that he had forgotten about that, but actually never wished that he could remember that.

"If I know earlier this matter ends up in such an embarrassment, I really should have bought a bottle of water." Zhang Fan turned the head and looked at the small restaurant and Li Cheng that had been lost in his sight and then murmured to himself. It was supposed to look better to give the water to others.

From a different perspective, one thing could have quite different feelings, just like Zhang Fan and Li Cheng.

Chapter 319: Fighting Back

Time flew by. The day opening for the neighboring western restaurant, whose name was translated as 'The Best', was getting closer and closer.

The reason why Yuan Zhou was so clear about that was his regular customers would receive an invitation card almost every day.

Every time they received the invitation card, they would have the following conversation with Yuan Zhou.

"Boss Yuan, somebody wants to poach your customers," Ling Hong said primly.

"Really? Poach you?" Yuan Zhou looked at him calmly.

"Of course. Look?" Ling Hong took out the invitation card and showed it in front of Yuan Zhou.

"This is the 410th invitation card that I have seen. They really send a lot to you guys." Yuan Zhou thought for a while and then brought out a number.

"Aren't you surprised?" The purpose of Ling Hong was just to watch Yuan Zhou get surprised, or at least a little nervous.

But he was disappointed. Yuan Zhou said leisurely to him, "Not after seeing so many."

"Somebody surprisingly got it ahead of me!" Ling Hong muttered to himself discontentedly.

In the meantime, he threw the invitation card away randomly.

"Please, don't throw trash." Yuan Zhou looked at the invitation card and then Ling Hong. After that, he said.

"I'm not. I still want to keep it," Ling Hong picked up the invitation card and added.

"Um. Please come over at business hours." Yuan Zhou checked the time and started to drive him away.

The frequency of such conversations became higher and higher as the day of opening for the neighboring western restaurant got closer.

Even when he saw Wu Hai also holding the invitation, Yuan Zhou was still as calm as before. He even wanted to laugh, "These silly people want to see me become embarrassed and panic-stricken. They are too naive."

Tortured by the repeated conversations, Yuan Zhou just looked at Wu Hai speechlessly.

"What's the matter?" Yuan Zhou asked habitually.

Just when Wu Hai was about to answer him, Yuan Zhou volunteered, "I'm not interested in the invitation card in your hand. Nor do I have anything to say about it."

"Me, either. A beautiful girl gave it to me just now. She even knew my name. It seems the art exhibition is very successful." Wu Hai took a strange look at Yuan Zhou and then nodded the head, in favor of him.

"What does it have anything to do with your art exhibition?" Yuan Zhou asked after an inconspicuous pause. This loathsome Wu Hai gave an answer out of Yuan Zhou's expectations.

"The girl that gave the invitation card to me definitely knew me because of my painting works," Wu Hai said affirmatively.

"It's because of my restaurant." Yuan Zhou denied Wu Hai's judgement lightly.

"Do you think they came to compete with you?" Wu Hai suddenly reacted and said with an exalted manner.

"I heard of that." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Terrific. I have to inquire about the craftsmanship of the head

chef from that restaurant." Wu Hai became excited instantly. After walking for two circles, he uttered that and then left quickly.

"I really don't know why you are so happy." Yuan Zhou felt it rather inexplicable.

On the evening of Sep 30th, Yuan Zhou watched Shen Min leave from the second floor as usual. He then went to wash up and sleep after the pub was closed.

In the neighboring western restaurant called "Masterwork Nonsuch", however, it was brightly lit. The staff were busy doing the cleaning and setting the scene in the lobby. The manager of the restaurant had been recruited through a headhunting service.

With the thick wavy hair hanging off her back obediently, she was actually a plain-looking woman, yet with a fascinating figure. Her name was Liu Ruoyu. She was quite capable and experienced. Therefore, Niu Li appreciated her very much.

"The red carpet of the lobby must be laid on time at 11 o'clock tomorrow, not a single minute earlier or later." Liu Ruoyu pointed at the dark entrance and said seriously.

"Ok, Manager Liu. All the places including the table corners have all been wiped clean. Can the attendants get off work now?" The supervisor of the lobby said while pointing at the attendants that lined up orderly.

"Yes. They look quite spirited. All of you dress up in your new work clothes tomorrow. If there are any clothes that do not fit, now is your last chance to change them." Liu Ruoyu nodded her head contently while looking at them.

She indeed had good reasons to feel satisfied. This chain restaurant targeted wealthy customer, therefore even the attendants that were recruited were carefully selected. All the recruitment standards were only slightly lower than those of a luxury store. Similarly, the salary they offered was also the best in

the industry.

If you want a horse to run quickly, you naturally have to feed it well.

This could be seen among the attendants that waited at the side, the waiters were all dressed in a waistcoat, a white shirt and suit pants. With a cordial smile on their faces, they looked fairly spirited.

As for the waitresses, they were all wearing the same short skirt, white shirt and waistcoat. Similarly, they had a pretty smile on their faces and their appearances were all above the average.

With the high quality of these attendants, the exquisite decoration of the restaurant and the craftsmanship of the culinary artist, it was really a minute thing to keep the customers.

Of course, this was only the thought of Liu Ruoyu.

"Yes, ma'am." The attendants answered with one accord loudly and vigorously.

"Get off work now. Tomorrow, be alert and not sluggish." Thinking of Niu Li's instructions, Liu Ruoyu said again.

"Understood." The attendants and the lobby supervisor all answered together.

While the lobby things got finished, the kitchen was nevertheless still bustling.

"Are the preparations for the main cuisines tomorrow complete?" Li Li patrolled around the stuff in the kitchen.

"Don't worry. Everything's ready. The daily reserves are also good for now. "I have also confirmed with the suppliers again for those ingredients that need to be sent here tomorrow." It was the head chef that answered. He well coincided with what people believed chefs to be, an amiable smile on his plump face.

"Um, perfect. Get familiar with the kitchen and afterwards, get

off work." Although he had been told by the head chef that everything was ready, Li Li still inspected all of them one by one.

He was awfully earnest and responsible.

"How many tables are still vacant tomorrow?" Li Li asked Liu Ruoyu that had barely arrived.

"According to the number of the people that have received the invitation cards, there are no vacant seats left. But we can still manage to leave three tables vacant." Liu Ruoyu turned and opened her notebook and then reported.

"What does that mean?" Li Li knitted his brows.

"That Wu Hai living across the street received the invitation card, but he might not necessarily come, and another one called Ling Hong. Furthermore, there are other candidates that we are unsure of." Liu Ruoyu said calmly.

"Alright. That's it." After a nod, Li Li signaled the head chef to inspect the fireproofing installations and prepared to close the door.

Liu Ruoyu was the last to leave. After Li Li left for home, she checked again the layout and cleanliness of everything in the restaurant as well as the door and windows before she left.

On the next early morning, the many and diverse opening ceremonies attracted crowds of passers-by.

Yuan Zhou's restaurant nevertheless still remained the same. When the opening ceremonies ended and the western restaurant officially started to serve customers, the breakfast time of Yuan Zhou's restaurant had already passed. It was the first day of the holiday. The reason why these people got up so early was that the 100 servings of breakfast would have been sold out if they didn't.

With that motivation, they would do their utmost best even if they had to unlock the seals on them.

Therefore, all those that finished their breakfast watched the boisterous opening ceremonies conveniently.

Niu Li spared some time to look at the entrance of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and then was relieved when she saw nothing had change. After all, Yuan Zhou and his restaurant was the biggest variable.

Looking at the crowd of people that surrounded the entrance, she even thought that probably nobody would go to Yuan Zhou's restaurant today.

However, Yuan Zhou was never a man that awaited his doom. Besides, he had absolute confidence with his own craftsmanship. It was the good time to let them know what genuine strength was.

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Chapter 320: Perfect Service Experience

"Starting from today, I'll have to bother you, Mr. Li." After the opening ceremonies ended, Niu Li's boss, namely the man who approved her business proposal, said to Li Li amiably.

"No need to mention that, Mr. Cheng," Li Li said smilingly.

"The excellent craftsmanship of Mr. Li is already known to me. I have long been expecting to have a taste, but never gotten a chance. And I reckon today is a good opportunity. I just don't know if I have the honor. Do I?" Mr. Cheng laughed loudly and said to Li Li.

"No problem. I will be providing 100 servings of the main cuisines of our restaurant today. Would you like one of them?" Li Li answered with a nod.

The one that Li Li was going to offer Mr. Cheng was naturally one in the 100 servings. He had never intended to cook an extra serving.

"Yes, please. I'm going to use my privilege today and enjoy your craftsmanship." Mr. Cheng answered smilingly.

"But all of you guys have to stay. Laws are only applicable to individuals, not us." Mr. Cheng instructed his followers to be seated.

Since he was running so many chain restaurants, he was quite clear about the temperament of the executive head chef. Capable people always had some temperament.

"Ok. One moment, please." After a nod, Li Li went to the kitchen to prepare the dishes.

Seated beside him, Niu Li said, "It's no more than a meal. Why be so formal? We should be happy to benefit from accompanying you."

"Yeah, true. If not, how could we have the chance to taste Mr. Li's craftsmanship?" This was the industry where even speaking was an art. This person said the words directly.

"Haw-haw. Then let's wait to enjoy the dishes," Mr. Cheng said quite confidently.

The several people accompanying Mr. Cheng were naturally arranged to a private dining room. Others were left crowded in the main hall.

The situation was more or less the same to what Liu Ruoyu had expected. Almost all that had received the invitation card arrived, of course, punctually.

Lining up in advance was the treatment enjoyed by Yuan Zhou only.

Even Wu Zhou, Zhao Yingjun and Manager Shi came over here together.

"What a spectacle!" Wu Zhou said while taking his girlfriend Zhuang Xinmu's hand.

"It's quite a well-known high-end chain restaurant." Zhao Yingjun came prepared.

"Alright. Let's go inside to have a look." Manager Shi uttered.

"Don't talk so loudly. What if they found that we are here to spy on them?" Wu Zhou said with a low voice.

"You think too much. Who will pay attention to a few people among so many customers?" Zhao Yingjun rolled his eyes and pulled the bow tie unnaturally.

This restaurant was way too high-end. Even if they needn't wear the formal suit, they at least had to be dressed semi-formally. Therefore, Wu Zhou and Zhao Yingjun both wore bow ties.

Due to his original boss-like manner, Manager Shi didn't need to change clothes at all.

Zhuang Xinmu, nevertheless, wore a light-color one-piece dress, looking beautiful and charming.

"Hi, come in, please. May I please know if you have the invitation cards?" A beautiful waitress dressed in the uniform came up to them and asked gently.

"Of course, we do. Here are the four." Wu Zhou took the lead and handed his invitation card to her.

"May I call you Brother Wu if you don't mind?" The waitress said naturally with an amiable expression.

"Honey, do you mind?" Wu Zhou turned the head and looked toward Zhuang Xinmu with a flattering manner.

His girlfriend Zhuang Xinmu always showed due respect for Wu Zhou's feeling in front of others, thus she only smiled and nodded the head lightly.

Only when he saw his girlfriend nod did Wu Zhou answer the waitress, "Yes. Why not?"

"Brother Wu, you really have an intimate relationship with her." The waitress praised him timely.

"Of course. This is my wife." Taking the hand of Zhuang Xinmu, Wu Zhou started to show off their intimacy.

"Tsk. Couldn't you just control your emotions and not reveal that in public everyday?" Zhao Yingjun turned his head away with a manner of dislike.

However, Manager Shi wasn't affected at all. It was him who kept a very careful observation.

He found that every waitress dressed in uniform would greet them politely when they passed by.

"Hello, come in, please." Every waitress said so, but meanwhile didn't disturb them talking.

Yet, each with different ways of speaking.

Even the smiles on their faces were different, all of which, contrarily, made them feel their sincerity.

"The service is really not bad." Manager Shi said quietly.

"Look, Brother Wu. There are still some vacant seats at the window for you. While eating, you can also enjoy the scenery." The waitress pointed at the courtyard full of grass and flowers and then said.

"Good positions. Mu Mu, shall we get seated over there?" WU Zhou consulted Zhuang Xinmu while pointing at the vacant table.

Ever since they went inside the restaurant, the atmosphere was fairly good. It made Wu Zhou ignore the remaining two persons directly.

Nonetheless, Manager Shi and Zhao Yingjun had already got used to that.

After they got seated one after another, the waitress received a fruit plate from another waitress. They were all seasonal fruits and looked fresh and luring.

"Brother Wu, I'm the waitress Little Jing. Please take a rest now and eat some fruits. Let me go to fetch the menu." The waitress Little Jing took out an exquisite menu.

Then the menus were placed in front of the several people respectively and waited to be read.

"It's the glasses cloth. Do you need one?" Little Jing took out the items one by one from the concealed service desk at the side like a magician.

"If you want to tie up your hair, we have a professional dressing room where there are specialized items." Xiao Jing said to Zhuang Xinmu kindly.

"Hi, everybody. Here are the towels, cold and hot. This is to wipe the hands and this one for the face." Another waitress carried a

tray to them and said.

When they finished cleaning, Little Jing went up to them again, "Now you can order the dishes now. We have rationing Grilled Lamb Chop with Herbs Sauce prepared by the head chef today, only 100 servings. If you don't mind eating the mutton, you can have a taste."

"Um. We need to have a look first." Wu Zhou took the menu and revealed a manner of consideration.

"Brother Wu, I will be nearby. Should you need anything, just call me." Little Jing retreated aside smilingly.

"Alright." Wu Zhou nodded the head.

When he saw the waitress step aside to a place where she couldn't hear them talking, Wu Zhou became relieved and uttered, "They are surprisingly all western styled foods."

"Did you realized that just now?" Zhao Yingjun was a little helpless.

"Right. Speaking of which, what do you guys want to eat?" Wu Zhou looked around and suddenly asked.

"What? Didn't you say that you just wanted to come for a look?" Zhuang Xinmu ridiculed him.

"No doubt that he just came for the dishes. Scouting is merely an excuse." Zhao Yingjun straightforwardly brought out his purpose.

"I came to look around conveniently." Manager Shi immediately showed innocence when he saw Zhuang Xinmu looking at him.

"I brought you here with the intention to treat you to a western style meal. It's just that we have two unrelated guys with us." Wu Zhou was talented in coaxing his girlfriend.

Once he said that, Zhuang Xinmu revealed a big smile on the face and no longer cared about the amusing behavior of the three men.

"I think I can only afford a serving of vegetable salad according to

the price." Not intending to participate in their talks, Zhao Yingjun leafed through the menu by himself and then said in surprise.

"Why would I eat here since the dishes are so expensive?" Wu Zhou also felt discontented when he saw the price.

"That's true." Zhuang Xinmu opened hers and nodded the head approvingly, too.

"I will order the dishes then." Manager Shi was immune to the high price.

He directly summoned Little Jing and ordered some dishes for the four of them as well as four Grilled Lamb Chop With Herbs Sauce for each of them.

While waiting for the dishes, they all felt a little bored and hence took out their phones.

Conventionally, Wu Zhou wandered around in the gourmet group. As soon as he saw the messages, however, he was stunned.

While the other three people still didn't know what happened, he dragged Zhuang Xinmu and called the other two people to leave...

Chapter 321: Face Slapping Heavily

"What's the matter? The dishes haven't been served." Zhao Yingjun reacted first and then asked him with puzzlement.

"Let's go to line up first. Otherwise all will end up in vain after the explanations." Wu Zhou opened his mouth slightly before he dragged up his girlfriend and walked away while talking.

"What happened?" Zhuang Xinmu asked with an anxious manner.

"Nothing. Boss Yuan is too cunning. Let's go to eat something more delicious. We can probably make it." Wu Zhou checked the time and said to Zhuang Xinmu with a comforting manner.

"Is Boss Yuan serving a new dish?" Manager Shi said in surprise.

"A new dish, which has never been seen before." Wu Zhou gnashed his teeth and then said.

"Tsk. This Boss Yuan is so disgusting." After saying that, Manager Shi quickened his pace.

"What new dish can make you so excited?" Zhao Yingjun also quickened his pace and ignored the dishes that they had just ordered.

"What's the matter, Brother Wu? Do you need any help?" Seeing the anxious expressions of the several people, the waitress Little Jing went up quickly to them and asked.

"We have an emergency. Please get all dishes ordered to be taken away. This is my bank card without a password. Please send the dishes and the bank card to Yuan Zhou's restaurant in front of you. I will wait for you there." Manager Shi straightforwardly took out his bank card and said cleanly.

"Well, what else can I do for you?" The waitress was a little dumbfounded. After all, she had worked here only for a day and

had never come across this situation before.

"Ok. Wait a moment, please. I will get the dishes packed and send them to you over there." The waitress, Little Jing, nodded the head.

Despite the shock, she ushered them to the door dutifully and then came back. She first got the bill paid and then notified the kitchen to pack the dishes.

However, the sudden incident was still far from the end. While Wu Zhou and the others were leaving, the rest of the people in the restaurant also requested for the dishes to be packed and then left one after another, as if they had received some information.

"Go, let's go to Boss Yuan's restaurant." A girl dragged up her boyfriend and prepared to leave.

"What are you rushing for? We haven't paid them." The young man dragged his girlfriend backhand and said mildly.

"Hurry up, or we can't even get our turn in time." The girl directly took the money and paid the bill anxiously.

"Pack the dish, please. We'll take them. It's the fish, right? We'll take it." The girl said to the waitress beside her cleanly.

"It has just been served. Couldn't we go there in the evening?" The young man was a little puzzled.

Of course he didn't understand that as he wasn't working around here and had never been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant before. Therefore, he was totally ignorant of the attraction of Yuan Zhou.

He felt they might as well have a meal over here and go to Yuan Zhou's restaurant in the evening. They didn't make any difference.

"No. It's the first time this dish is served. Even if we can't eat it, I would prefer to have a look at it." The girl answered with a firm attitude.

"Waitress, come to pack our dishes. We'll take them away." While

they were still debating, others had started to pack their dishes.

Once their voices came to her, the girl became more worried. She truly wanted to drag her boyfriend up and run over there immediately.

At that time, there came a sound again from the other side.

"Let's go. Boss Yuan has served another new dish. We can't miss that." A middle-aged man stood up and intended to leave right away.

"What shall we do with the food on the table?" The man seated together with him was reluctant to abandon the nice cuisines.

Dishes of this restaurant were not cheap at all. Only the Grilled Lamb Chop With Herbs Sauce cost thousands of RMB. Although he didn't pay, he still felt a heartache.

"Just leave them there. Let's go now." The middle-aged man took the bag on the rack beside him and said indifferently.

"Didn't you tell me that even Boss Yuan has a rule of not wasting in his restaurant?" Another man suddenly said that.

"Alright, alright. I'll get them packed and take them, ok?" The middle-aged man straightway said that cleanly.

All at once, 1/3 of the customers seated in the main hall left and all chose to get their dishes packed and take them away.

It was so quick that the waitress didn't even have time to prepare for that. It was other food runners at the side that notified Liu Ruoyu.

When the food runner went to notify her, he happened to see Mr. Cheng and others praising Li Li's culinary skills.

"Mr. Li, your craftsmanship is just brilliant. I have never eaten such fresh and tender lamb chop before. Besides, it was free from the goat odor." Since they could sit and have a meal together, they were basically all good at sweet talk.

"This is really my honor. It's indeed palatable." Mr. Cheng made a thumb-up gesture and said.

"Thank you." Li Li learned western cooking and his way of doing things were also more westernized. He directly thanked them immodestly.

"Mr. Cheng, now you can be rest assured of his ability." On the dining table, Niu Li joked with Mr. Cheng.

The meal brought more confidence to her.

She had once tasted Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship, a bowl of the Egg Fried Rice. The taste was so infinitely wonderful that it was simply the utmost limit of the Egg Fried Rice. She also believed that Li Li was unable to outclass Yuan Zhou on the culinary skills.

But just as what Li Li had said, opening a restaurant was more than serving some tasty dishes. The services also took a major part in success.

Thinking of Yuan Zhou's Egg Fried Rice and then the fresh and tender lamb chop, Niu Li felt hungry again and thus ate another bite of dishes immediately.

"You are joking with me again. When was I ever not rest assured? Look at yourself, watch your eating manners." Mr. Cheng retorted smilingly and in the meantime said to her with a manner of dislike.

"It's totally because Mr. Li has done a great work. If not that I feel embarrassed, you don't even need to wash the plates." Another person beside him said confidently while pointing at the plate with only the sauce and side dish left.

Just when the atmosphere was harmonious inside, the food runner knocked on the door.

"Dong Dong Dong", the sound was quite conspicuous in the room. Mr. Cheng immediately said, "Come on in."

Dressed in a white working uniform, a young man walked into

the room.

"Manager Liu, there's an emergency in the main hall that requires your presence." The waiter first smiled to others and then said solemnly.

"I think it's definitely because the seats aren't enough for so many customers. So they need figure a solution out," a customer said that smilingly.

"I also think that way. It's totally crowded with customers. Never did I expect so many people here." Another person also echoed with a nod.

"Ok. Ruoyu, you go to handle that." Mr. Cheng nodded the head smilingly. He also agreed with him on that.

After all, there had been too many people just now who flooded in the main hall and it was not at all surprising that the main hall was stuffed.

Contrarily, things were going toward a weird reverse direction.

The food runner was asked by the supervisor of the main hall to send for Liu Ruoyu. He himself nevertheless stayed there to watch the situation.

Just in the past few minutes, another 1/3 of the customers left, with a quicker speed.

"I'm sorry, but may I trouble you and ask..." The supervisor couldn't help asking what exactly made these people abandon the dishes and decide to take them away.

However, he was interrupted by one of them before he could finish saying that, "Sorry, no time at the moment."

After that, the person passed by the supervisor and walked hurriedly to the door.

"Hi, sir. May I ask..." The supervisor was also a decisive man. After answering "Take care", he stopped another person to inquire.

"The dishes have been paid for. Goodbye." This customer answered more cleanly. He totally ignored the question of the supervisor and directly said goodbye.

After he failed in stopping some other customers, one finally agreed to stop.

At that time, however, there were only a few people left in the main hall. Even for the customers in the private dining room, many also left.

The reason why this person stopped was quite simple. It was too late to go to Yuan Zhou's restaurant to line up.

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Chapter 322: The Pain on Mr Cheng's Face

"Sir, may I ask if there are any problems with our restaurant?" The supervisor of the main hall went up and asked courteously.

He spoke a little more quickly than usual. Apparently, he was afraid that this customer wouldn't give him enough time to finish his utterance.

"No, no. It's just that I have some personal affairs to handle." The person who was stopped likewise often went to Yuan Zhou's restaurant. He was working in a commercial building near this place. His name was Qin Fan and he had a mild character, therefore he talked quite courteously.

"Sir, we are very open to any suggestions of the customers." When the supervisor found the man was willing to talk, he said politely.

"The service here is pretty good. So are the environment and the taste of the dishes." Seeing the sincere expression of the supervisor, Qin Fan considered for a while and then answered earnestly.

"Thank you for your compliments. If it's convenient, could you please tell me why you don't like to eat here?" The supervisor continued saying gently and courteously.

"There's nothing inconvenient for me. It's just because Boss Yuan has just served a new dish. Look, these guys are all running faster than one another." Qin Fan was rather speechless when he saw the increasing number of people at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant in the distance.

"Then why didn't you go there?" The supervisor was actually slightly muddled, but he still asked habitually.

"It's too late. I can't even get close to the door if I go now and can only wait for others to describe the new dish to me." Qin Fan

sighed and then said earnestly.

"Which star chef is this Boss Yuan?" The supervisor carefully chewed what Qin Fan had just said in the mind and figured out a most possible answer before he uttered to ask.

"A star? It's merely the boss of the restaurant over there." On hearing that, Qin Fan knew that the supervisor had misunderstood him. Then, he said while pointing at Yuan Zhou's restaurant not far away.

"Ok, thank you, sir. Do you need to pack your dishes now?" The supervisor swallowed the saliva without turning a hair and asked calmly when he saw the long winding line and the ever-increasing number of people in the distance.

"Of course. I have instructed the waitress called Little Jiao to do that." Qin Fan nodded the head naturally.

"Good. Sir, thank you so much for your opinion and explanations. We'll have a free dish for you." Having finished talking with a smile, the supervisor summoned a waitress and said something.

"You are welcome." After a nod, Qin Fan waited there for his dish while looking at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Let me take the liberty of asking a question. Which do you think serves more satisfactory dishes, we or that Boss Yuan?" The supervisor suddenly asked.

He was indeed curious. How come such a large restaurant with nice environment, service and dishes was defeated by a tiny one that had merely just served a new dish?

"Do you mean to compare?" Qin Fan asked in surprise.

"Yes. What do you think?" The supervisor continued asking with a smile.

"Ho Ho. My packed dish is almost here." By saying so, Qin Fan

obviously didn't want to answer him.

After a nod, the supervisor thanked him again and then left.

"Interesting! How does he dare to compare with Boss Yuan?" Qin Fan couldn't help laughing on thinking of that.

Deep in his heart, he had never thought of comparing this restaurant in the same breath with Boss Yuan on the culinary craftsmanship. So had the others that left decisively.

If they had the slightest intention of comparing, they wouldn't have left directly without giving the dishes a taste, of which the staff of this restaurant had no idea.

After he turned around, he saw Liu Ruoyu walk to him with a solemn expression on her face. Nonetheless, she still greeted the customers with a smile when she passed by them. She was a dutiful person.

"What's the problem?" Liu Ruoyu directly asked the supervisor in front of her.

"I heard that Boss Yuan of the neighboring tiny restaurant had just pushed out a new dish, so everybody chose to take the dishes away after they ordered." The supervisor brought out the truth to her clearly.

"Yuan Zhou's Restaurant? It's surprisingly him. Ok, got it." Liu Ruoyu nodded the head, indicating that he was clear of that.

Looking around at the almost empty main hall and the private dining rooms that had only a few people, Liu Ruoyu resolutely turned around and went to the head chef.

Under such circumstances, they naturally had an alternative scheme.

While the new restaurant started using the alternative scheme, Yuan Zhou was nevertheless doing his own things earnestly.

"Boss, what's the price of the Swedish Meatballs provided today?"

Zhou Jia asked cautiously.

"It's right on the wall." Yuan Zhou pointed to the wall.

"Ok. Boss, can I make a suggestion?" Zhou Jia thought for a while and said.

"Sure. Go ahead." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"I know that you don't like publicity. But can you at least tell me in advance next time so that we can have some preparations?" Zhou Jia had originally been a little worried, but now became helpless.

Yes, she was worried. Zhou Jia was really a little bit worried. There appeared such a high-end restaurant next door and even its opening ceremony was so grand. On the contrary, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was no more than a tiny restaurant without even a shop sign. And besides that, there was basically no service at all.

Yuan Zhou didn't even let her clear away the bowls and plates. Instead, the customers had to do the work by themselves.

Although she knew these customers came here for her boss's craftsmanship, she had never tasted any of them and thus really didn't know how delicious it was. All that she knew was that they were delicious.

Strictly speaking, the success of a restaurant truly couldn't rely on the delicious dishes only. However, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was totally different from those gaudy ones.

With the best or peerless food ingredients provided by the system, plus the masterful craftsmanship of Yuan Zhou, the dishes had been far beyond the word 'delicious'.

Going for the better one was the common desire of humans. Yuan Zhou's restaurant didn't need to be chosen.

"Don't you think it's a surprise?" Yuan Zhou looked at Zhou Jia who stood there in a daze with puzzlement.

"Boss Yuan, actually, everyone's sense of humor is different." Zhou Jia reacted and answered solemnly.

"Um. That's true. I feel it is fairly good this way. Look, they seem to like it, too." Yuan Zhou pointed at the long line of customers outside.

It was indeed spectacular and occasionally some people dressed in waiter's uniform from next door came out to send things to them.

Including the packed dishes, bank cards and wallets, etc. What a spectacle!

Yuan Zhou turned around and revealed a smile at the corner of his mouth. Then he began to prepare the dishes earnestly. He naturally needed 100% delicacies to repay for the customers' trust.

Having ridden on the crest of success, Mr. Cheng brought people out toward the door after the meal. On the way, he didn't forget to joke with others.

"We have taken advantage of eating early here. I'm afraid the customers outside have probably just started to eat. There are so many people, so don't get lost." Mr. Cheng said smilingly.

Due to the success of the opening ceremony or the trust to his own brand or else the recognition of Li Li's craftsmanship, Mr. Cheng felt it not a problem to make the business grow rapidly.

However, others that accompanied him out were slightly embarrassed. Even Niu Li couldn't contain her temper anymore and became a little puzzled and angry.

"It's so quiet, isn't it?" Seeing nobody respond to him, Mr. Cheng turned the head and muttered in the heart.

Once he turned the head, however, he was a little dumbfounded. What exactly happened to make so little customers stay?

"What is it?" Mr. Cheng walked toward Liu Ruoyu and Li Li at the

door.

He got to understand the situation as soon as he reached the door. Then, he felt a heat spread across his face for what he had just said...

Chapter 323: Yuan Zhou's First Exotic Dish

The sharp contrast to the quiet atmosphere of the grand restaurant was the bustle outside of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"What's the matter?" Mr. Cheng said with a heavy tone. Others invited to attend the opening ceremony were likewise a little bit dumbfounded.

Why were all the customers gone while it had just been bustling and crowded with people just now?

If he looked carefully, he could even see all those who formed a line outside were all holding a meal box, especially those who waited at the latter part of the line. Most of them had the meal box of his restaurant in their hands.

Had the humans by now evolved to the stage in which they didn't like enjoying meals in the restaurant but only preferred to take them away?

For the very first time, Mr. Cheng felt that he had been abandoned by the wheels of the time.

"A new dish is served over there, an exotic dish in particular." Liu Ruoyu didn't look good.

During the period when she was out handling the matter, more of their customers left. Even those who were originally attracted by their restaurant also went to Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

Watching the fun was the intrinsic nature of humans.

"Just an exotic dish! What else is new?" Mr. Cheng said with a cloud on his brow.

Standing beside him, Niu Li was a little embarrassed and meanwhile curious. A mere new dish surprisingly had so much public appeal. It seemed this Boss Yuan had been severely underestimated.

"I have arranged our people to line up. Even if we can't take it away, we can let Mr. Qiu taste it carefully." Liu Ruoyu started to calm down when she talked about the remediation.

"Um. Get it quickly solved. What an embarrassment!" Mr. Cheng really felt a headache while looking at the two restaurants with sharp contrast.

"Ok." With a nod, Liu Ruoyu said affirmatively.

"I will have to trouble you to help me out, Mr. Li." Mr. Cheng nodded the head and then said to Li Li who was silent at the side.

"Got it." Li Li looked terrible.

After saying that, Mr. Cheng left with other slightly embarrassed customers, leaving only Niu Li there.

"Mr. Li, do you need to go and taste it personally?" Niu Li asked Li Li while looking at him.

"Not necessary. This is his home field. We are at a disadvantage by nature. But they come once and they'll never forget us." Li Li said with an affirmative tone.

"Leaving other dishes alone, the Egg Fried Rice provided there is absolutely god-tier. It's the very first time in my life that I ate something like it. Furthermore, it's the ideal Golden Fried Rice." Niu Li hesitated for a while and brought everything out in its entirety.

Originally, she didn't intend to tell that to Li Li. And she was very clear that Li Li was too prideful to go to Yuan Zhou's restaurant for a taste.

Sometimes, knowing well of yourself as well as the enemy could help you to defeat the rival. But when the rival was too powerful, a man should help his chief commander to build confidence rather than let him know it was impossible.

After all, Li Li didn't actually believe such whimsical words of

one single man boosting the regional GDP.

As for telling him about Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship now, she meant to remind him not taking the enemy lightly. Craftsmanship mattered more than GDP. Of course, this was for Li Li.

"Golden Fried Rice? I'm not proficient in Chinese food, but if it's really as described by you, the situation will be tougher." Li Li thought for a while earnestly.

"Indeed. Do you need to taste his dish now?" Niu Li was entangled when she asked that.

"No need. Please put up a notice that I will cook a dish on site tomorrow." Li Li waved his hand first. Then he turned the head and told Liu Ruoyu.

"Ok. I will get everything ready, Mr. Li." Liu Ruoyu revealed an expression of excitement on her face and then went to do her work.

"We'll have to bother you again, Mr. Li." Niu Li was quite satisfied with the result.

The initial scheme of hers was not to erase Yuan Zhou's restaurant, which also seemed to be impossible now. However, it was supposed to be no problem to surpass it on the turnover. After all, Yuan Zhou's restaurant had already established the market before her restaurant.

Due to the small size, Yuan Zhou's restaurant could no longer receive any more customers. Even the private-home-cuisine restaurants nearby couldn't satisfy the demand of the customers. Therefore, it was quite a wise option to set up the branch restaurant here.

After the market was developed, they would make it bigger and stronger so that they could get the best and biggest share from the entirety. What Yuan Zhou's restaurant would finally become was never considered by them.

Little did Niu Li think the deliciousness of the dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant totally outclassed the exterior conditions of service and environment.

Luckily, they had the senior culinary artist Li Li. Right now, they had only to depend on these superior exterior conditions to attract the customers.

The invisible competition had started. Yuan Zhou nevertheless still proceeded his work according to his own schedule. Of course, Mr. Cheng, who had been slapped on the face, didn't think that way. He believed that Yuan Zhou served this new dish on this very day intentionally to grab their customers.

He naturally had already figured out how to fight back. Now was the time to do the background investigation.

"With all due respect, Boss Yuan, why did you always create breaking news silently? Do you know how unprepared we are?" Wu Zhou moved here quickly and also got his turn soon.

"Yeah, indeed. Why didn't you tell us in advance that you will serve a new dish?" Even Zhao Yingjun couldn't help saying that.

"With your status right now, Boss Yuan, you really should inform us of the latest news through microblog or something else. Then we can check it from time to time for something new." Manager Shi said, pretending to be serious.

"Good-looking men never use external things," Yuan Zhou said primly.

Then, he didn't mention the fact that he wasn't good at talking anymore.

"What does good-looking men not using external things have anything to do with you?" Suddenly, a customer uttered.

Under Yuan Zhou's stare, this customer took back his words.

"I'm hungry." Zhuang Xinmu suddenly said at the side.

"Oh, right. Honey, just order whatever you want." Wu Zhou immediately answered with a flattering manner.

"Humph. Only the new dish is good." Having been neglected, Zhuang Xinmu humphed discontentedly. However, she didn't have the heart to squeeze her man dry and hence just ordered the new dish for a taste.

"One more cup of watermelon juice." Wu Zhou helped to order the watermelon juice, which was his girlfriend's favorite.

"A Swedish dish? Meatball is the usual cuisine of that country." Manager Shi knew about that upon seeing the name.

"Is it delicious?" Zhao Yingjun asked with puzzlement.

"Not bad. I just don't know if Boss Yuan can make something new out of it." Manager Shi got seated and also ordered this dish as well as the bland Clear Broth Noodle Soup.

Meatballs were fairly greasy, therefore Manager Shi prepared to eat the dish along with another bland dish.

While the several customers were talking, Zhou Jia took note of their dishes and then intended to inform Yuan Zhou.

Only then did Wu Hai, who had barely finished the last gulp of meatball, raised his head contentedly. Then, he saw the exquisite food bags that the several people put at the feet.

"Did you guys go to the neighboring restaurant?" Wu Hai looked at the several people of Wu Zhou and then craned his neck looking at others in line behind them.

The long line tended to become longer and longer.

"We went there just to spy on the new restaurant and didn't intend to eat anything there." Wu Zhou said quite naturally.

"Spying on them? Then what are you doing back here now?" Looking at the several people, Wu Hai asked mildly.

"We are back after the spying work." Zhao Yingjun followed.

"Back along with the foods of other restaurant?" Obviously, Wu Hai didn't believe in this guy's words.

"Where shall we go if we don't come to Boss Yuan's restaurant?" Wu Zhou said deservedly.

"This new restaurant is really useless. Didn't they publicize that they are the high-end chain restaurant with top-notch service?" Wu Hai said discontentedly while stroking his small mustaches.

"The service is indeed good. So is the environment." Manager Shi nodded the head affirmatively.

"Then why are you seated here for?" Wu Hai rolled his eyes with an ungracefully manner.

"To eat." Then, the several people answered with one accord.

"It's really useless. It'll be better to us if it could attract more customers to go there. That way, I don't need to line up for the meal. Why are the customers of Yuan Zhou's restaurant getting more and more?" Wu Hai was rather speechless.

Wu Hai didn't actually feel strange about the attitude of these customers. When they had money, they naturally came to Yuan Zhou's restaurant. As for the reason? How could anyone compare Yuan Zhou with others after they ate Yuan Zhou's dishes. He definitely wanted to drive them crazy by doing that.

Chapter 324: A New Style of Swedish Meatballs

The western restaurant, judged by Yuan Zhou as being useless, was busy with their own preparations at the moment. Yet, it was only noon now.

As for Yuan Zhou, he was preparing the dishes earnestly.

The cooking method of Swedish Meatball wasn't actually complex but the ingredients required were nevertheless not little.

As Yuan Zhou's requirements on dishes were getting higher and higher, he had practiced for a long time before starting to serve it.

Of course, Yuan Zhou could swear that he never intended to serve the dish at the same time as when the new restaurant commenced business. Well, after all, it was him that had chosen the time first.

As for the matter of it being the first day of National Day Holiday, that was totally God's will.

Who should one blame if one wanted to seek embarrassment themselves?

As was known to all, Yuan Zhou was a good boy and a good chef, always honest and kind.

The Swedish Meatball dish was quite influential in Sweden and the neighboring countries. In Norway, Denmark and Finland, it was a very popular dish.

Besides, the meatball could be seen everywhere, in various restaurants, fast food restaurants, supermarkets, companies or school canteens.

Even among the top 10 cuisine hot list, the meatball had never fallen far behind.

After Yuan Zhou obtained the recipe, however, he studied the dish for quite a long time and tried every classical cooking method.

By the way, the chef that appeared in Yuan Zhou's mind this time was really like what Yuan Zhou had imagined, all foreigners except for a single Chinese.

"Carry them to the customers." After Yuan Zhou prepared several servings of meatball, he directly carried them onto the countertop and instructed Zhou Jia to carry them to the customers.

Yuan Zhou had finished most of the preparation work beforehand this time, so the speed of producing dishes was much quicker.

Of course, it was also because that the Nordics were reluctant to spend more time and efforts on cooking, compared with Easterners.

"Holy sh*t. The meatball is way too beautiful," Wu Zhou said first in surprise.

"Is this a peacock?" Zhao Yingjun craned his neck long and was rather curious.

Indeed. The Swedish Meatball on the table was truly good-looking.

An ordinary dish would have no more than a few meatballs at one side and the prepared mashed potatoes at the other on a white plate with surrounded edges. Accompanied with that would be a small plate of blueberry dipping sauce or even some pickled cucumbers.

However, the meatball cooked by Yuan Zhou was quite different. The meatballs were placed on a stage on the plate. In the middle part that was left vacant, he made the body of a peacock with the mashed potatoes. At first glance, people would almost mistake the jade-color thin pieces inserted beside the meatballs as the peacock tail.

"How awesome is this styling!" Wu Zhou rotated the plate slowly and watched it carefully.

"Not only is the styling marvelous, but it also has a mechanism inside." Wu Hai said at the side with a showing-off manner.

"Mechanism? By the way, aren't you providing the cranberry sauce, Boss Yuan?" Manager Shi suddenly thought of this important supporting role.

"I do. You can try to find it out by yourself." Sometimes, Yuan Zhou would make some small jokes with the regular customers.

Of course, his customers generally believed that Yuan Zhou's jokes weren't funny at all.

Speaking of which, Yuan Zhou had mastered a tip of not shedding tears while cutting the onions after he made the meatballs for so many times. Although it wasn't quite necessary for him due to his swift cutting skills, it was nevertheless fairly simple.

First, even the onions chosen by Yuan Zhou were different. Wash it clean and then cut it from the top down in parallel lines without breaking it. Then rotate the onion towards the right and vertically cut several straight lines with an angle vertical to the former lines.

After that, it would become easier. This was because the onion was basically cut into the connected long strips, he only needed to lay it down and then started to cut it. That way, the onion strips cut would be very uniform. Apart from that, the juice wouldn't spatter and the taste of pungency would be locked, thus not causing people to shed tears.

"What the hell do you mean by finding it out by ourselves? Shall we eat it just like that?" Wu Zhou straightforwardly picked one up and stuffed into his mouth.

The meatball was covered with thick glossy brown sauce and was scattered with little green leave pieces on the surface.

Furthermore, there was a glimmer of delicate fragrance blended along in the strong meat flavor, which appeared fairly mouth-watering.

"Slurp slurp". Unlike the girls who ate the meatball mouthful by mouthful, Wu Zhou directly stuffed the entire one in the mouth and started to eat.

When the meatball was in touch with his mouth cavity, the outer layer was the soft and smooth gravy while the inner layer was the scorched and crisp shell. When Wu Zhou gave it the first bite, the intense gravy burst out from the meatball.

When he chewed, the gravy penetrated the meat. While the scorched shell wrapped the freshness and tenderness inside, there was occasionally a crisp texture. It was the onion that could be distinguished easily.

The strong pungency of the onion became weak and in the meantime, the fragrance became stronger. The slight pungency helped to get rid of the underlying bad smell of the meat while the fragrance increased its layers of the taste. The onion itself nevertheless improved the texture of the meatballs.

When the entire meatball was in the mouth, multiple tastes swept by directly like the heavy storm that never gave an opportunity for a single breath.

The stimulating fragrance of black pepper, the mellow flavor of milk and cheese, the onion that provoked the great smell of meat and the thick gravy that had a tender and smooth texture pushed the meatballs to the epitome of taste.

"This is absolutely delicious. Boss Yuan really thinks a lot for us meat-eaters." Wu Zhou squinted his eyes contentedly and said with an expression of enjoyment.

"Absolutely. It has abundant gravy and is tender inside and scorched outside. The texture is fresh and sweet. It's the authentic

Swedish Meatball that is free from much grease, yet; it brings the intrinsic delicate flavor of meat into play," Manager Shi said contentedly while eating.

"It's indeed delicious. A good news for the meat-eaters. Never did I expect that a meatball could be so delicious. Boss, when will you serve the Chinese dish, [Lion's Head](#)?" While eating the food in the bowl, Zhao Yingjun was still thinking about those in the cooking pot.

"I think we can order another serving of the meatball." Wu Zhou looked at his girlfriend and said nervously.

He was truly perturbed. Just in a little while, he had eaten four meatballs with gravy filled in his mouth while uttering "so delicious" continuously. When he reacted, however, there were only two meatball left in the plate.

Such a thing had never happened before. Wu Zhou was fairly uneasy and afraid that his girlfriend would be unhappy.

"Never mind. I don't really like dishes made with cream." Zhuang Xinmu was only interested in watching the exotic dish rather than eating it.

"I think this thing is very interesting and should be edible." Right after that, she pointed at the decorative peacock tail and said.

"Have a taste, now." Wu Zhou picked up the chopsticks and handed them to Zhuang Xinmu flatteringly.

"Ok. Don't worry." Zhuang Xinm said smilingly. Then she received the chopsticks and picked up that piece of peacock tail as thin as a cicada's wings and with natural lines.

After a light sound of "Ka La", the meatball that had been placed on it suddenly disappeared.

"What's this?" The meatball rolled out again before they became puzzled.

It's just that the meatball this time was different from the former one. It was surprisingly wrapped in a rose red layer outside and appeared extraordinarily beautiful, mellow and full.

"What's this?" Wu Zhou, Zhuang Xinmu and others customers at the side all revealed a surprised expressions and looked at Yuan Zhou with puzzlement.

Only Wu Hai smiled complacently at the side. The mechanism...

Lion's Head is a particular dish of large meatballs in Chinese. It's a very famous Chinese cuisine.

Chapter 325: Li Li's Counterattack

"What's the matter?" Wu Zhou and others beside him asked in unison.

"You'll know that after you eat it. Try." Yuan Zhou signaled them to eat first.

"That's right. You'll understand after you eat it." Wu Hai looked at them expectantly.

"Should I try first or you go first?" Wu Zhou looked toward Zhuang Xinmu and then said with an inquiring manner.

"You first." Zhuang Xinmu said directly.

"Thanks, honey." Wu Zhou snatched Zhuang Xinmu's hand up and said with a moved tone.

"What an unexpected method of showing off your intimacy," Zhao Yingjun suddenly said loudly.

"Not to me. Only you feel it to be unexpected. My wife is also very nice." Manager Shi indicated that he wasn't single and hence didn't mind it.

"Try now." He actually cared more about that and hence urged.

Actually, both Zhao Yingjun and Manager Shi had their own meatballs. But, they still wanted to watch Wu Zhou eat first.

It was also a fun to enjoy the delicacies.

"Alright." Wu Zhou picked up the meatball and stuffed it into his mouth without any hesitation.

When he picked it up, he found the layer wrapping the meatball was soft and it became softer after he stuffed it into the mouth.

"What a strange feeling!" Wu Zhou took a bite. A sweet and sour taste was emitted before the taste of the meatball arrived.

"Strange?" Manager Shi became even more curious.

In less than a minute, however, Wu Zhou let out a "hum" and then chewed it energetically. It seemed the meatball became more delicious.

"Looks nice. Let's have a taste, too." Manager Shi turned the head and said to Zhao Yingjun.

"Um. Let's try." Zhao Yingjun was also interested in that now.

The two of them seemed to be quite interested in this mechanism and hence started various experiments.

When they watched it carefully, they found several small doors were under the tall lotus-like plate with a thick base and concealed in the pillar, which made them difficult to be found.

The plate used to load the Swedish Meatballs was quite special, just like the copper hotpot stove in former times. At the upper part was a smooth disc. On the disc, the meatballs were place in a circle, the peacock tail was at the side and the mashed potatoes that made into the body and head of the peacock were in the central part.

At the lower part was a pillar-like thing that was connected to the plate below. The pillar was carved with beautiful decorative patterns. It was these patterns that concealed those small doors.

It was originally thought that the plate was specially used as a foil to emphasize the beauty of the peacock. After all, only such a tall plate could give people a feeling that the peacock was about to fly. However, it seemed to be designed like that for the sake of this mechanism now.

Manager Shi poked the place where the meatballs rolled out with the chopsticks mischievously and there came a sound of "Pa Pa".

"Can't it be poked open? It seems to be opened from the outside." Manager Shi muttered to himself and studied it with great interest.

After that, he used the chopsticks to push the exquisite small doors outward, but still nothing happened.

"So interesting!" After experimenting for quite a few times, Manager Shi found that the meatball wouldn't roll out unless someone pulled out the peacock tail first. Nor would the doors below open if people ate the meatballs first.

Such a mechanism was quite ingenious.

Manager Shi and Zhao Yingjun were enthusiastically studying the mechanism like the kids. The miraculous texture of the meatballs that fell down had immediately stimulated their enthusiasm on studying.

Wu Zhou, nevertheless, gave the last meatball to his girlfriend.

"Come on. Mu Mu, eat the meatball. It's super delicious and you would absolutely like it." Wu Zhou picked the meatball up and moved it to the mouth of Zhuang Xinmu.

"It's a guarantee that Boss Yuan's craftsmanship is fine. But a dish made from cream..." Zhuang Xinmu was a little hesitant in her heart.

She felt that the texture of the dish made from cream was odd. Even thinking of the smooth and greasy feeling as well as the sweet and salty taste made her unable to accept it.

"This is cooked by Boss Yuan." Wu Zhou said firmly.

"Yeah, you are right. Let me have a taste." On thinking about Yuan Zhou's culinary craftsmanship, Zhuang Xinmu swallowed it up in one gulp without any hesitation.

This meatball made by Yuan Zhou was a little bit larger than a girl's mouth. Therefore, the meatball directly filled her mouth after she ate it. With her cheeks bulging, she looked extraordinarily lovable. Even Wu Zhou couldn't help staring at his girlfriend and laughing foolishly.

Nonetheless, Zhuang Xinmu just felt astonished and then started to chew hard.

The more she chewed, the more fragrant it became. She was then immersed in the enjoyment of the delicacy. Suddenly, Zhuang Xinmu gave Wu Zhou a stern look, which made him puzzled while he was watching his girlfriend's manner of eating.

But Zhuang Xinmu felt that she was in the right. The meatball was so tasty, but there was only this single one left.

Yes, Zhuang Xinmu had gotten used to the taste and furthermore, liked it very much.

It had a rather alluring sweet and sour taste once it entered into her mouth. After biting it open, there was thick gravy. In an instant, the sweet and sour taste penetrated the meatball. When she bit the meatball open again, both the gravy and the scorched shell had a hint of sourness.

However, it was quite inconspicuous. This was because the outside sour and sweet taste had totally melted into this dish.

That way, it neutralized the thick texture of the meatball. The sour taste stimulated the deeper delicacy of the meat while the sweetness increased the layers of the taste, like the emperor and ministers that worked perfectly together for one common goal.

"It's soooo tasty. Look, there's none left now." Once she finished, Zhuang Xinmu said to Wu Zhou.

"See? I already told you that you would definitely like the taste. First sweet and sour and then the super delicious meatball." Wu Zhou first said complacently. When he saw she was still very angry, however, he immediately coaxed her.

"I haven't ordered mine just now. I'm going to order another serving for you. Ok?" Wu Zhou said smilingly.

"Humph. Just this once." Zhuang Xinmu first felt a heartache over the price and then she said firmly.

She comforted herself in the heart hard that just a single extravagance was not a problem. It was mainly because the

meatball was quite satisfactory to her.

It was not only full of exotic flavor and texture, but was also too tasty for her to refuse it.

"Boss Yuan, one more serving, please. Could you tell us what it is now?" Wu Zhou was still very curious.

"Cranberry. It's the jam of cranberry." Manager Shi was fond of eating and having fun. After he finished the meal, he wiped his mouth and said elegantly.

"Jam?" Zhuang Xinmu indicated that she was so surprised.

"That's right. It's the jam. The indispensable thing to eat with the meatball is the cranberry jam. I was thinking just now why Boss Yuan hadn't served it. It turns out that it needed to be found by ourselves. A really interesting experience." Manager Shi looked at the empty plate in front of him contentedly.

"The meat unexpectedly could be eaten along with the jam. I reckon only Boss Yuan could make it." Zhuang Xinmu said with lingering fear.

What a joke! If the dish had been cooked by others and then they told her it was the meat matched with jam, she would never eat it. It was understandable to use the juice for seasoning. But what the hell was with the jam?

The exotic dish was really ingenious.

"You are right. The jam and meatballs are definitely a perfect match in Boss Yuan's hands." While eating the smashed potatoes, Wu Zhou sighed with emotion.

"As long as you like it." Yuan Zhou carried the meatballs to them and said solemnly after a nod.

Seeing them commend the plate designed by him, Yuan Zhou was quite happy in his heart but nevertheless stayed calm on the surface. Since he had been used to acting cool and aloof, he still

kept indifferent.

So here was a question. If he could just serve a can of jam, why did he make it so complicated?

Of course, no one had realized the matter until then. After all, they were still immersed in the delight of the new dish.

At the other side, an important matter was determined by Li Li.

"I will cook the Swedish Meatball personally in the evening." Li Li turned the head and said to Liu Ruoyu beside him.

It was just a new dish. He'd rather fight against Yuan Zhou face to face. Even if his craftsmanship couldn't equal Yuan Zhou's, with the environment of his restaurant and service, not mentioning surpassing it, he could at least put up a decent fight!

Chapter 326: They Are All Meatballs, Why Hurt Each Other Over Them?

"Wait. What did you mean just now, Mr. Li?" Liu Ruoyu was a little surprised.

"It's what it literally means. You just go and prepare," Li Li said earnestly.

"But didn't you tell Manager Niu just now that you would serve the Red Wine Flame Steak in the evening?" Liu Ruoyu asked meticulously.

She didn't want Li Li to compete against Yuan Zhou face to face. Niu Li had told her once that they came to open the restaurant because of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, therefore it was the best option to take evasive actions.

"What? You don't agree?" Li Li knitted his brows and turned to look at Liu Ruoyu.

"Executive Chef Li, I don't mean that. It's just that Manager Liu will come again in the evening." Liu Ruoyu said cautiously.

"I know what I should do. You just need to go and prepare." Li Li stood up and left Liu Ruoyu there alone.

No matter what, he had shares in the restaurant and could be considered as one of the bosses. Therefore, he need not follow anyone's orders though he might follow some advice.

Seeing Li Li say so, Liu Ruoyu naturally didn't dare to disobey him. She answered with a nod and meanwhile asked with an inquiring tone, "Do we need to tell Manager Niu about that?"

"It's up to you. I'm going to prepare now." Li Li didn't really care about that. It was his freedom to do what he wanted to.

"Alright. Mr. Li, I'm going to arrange the kitchen range for this evening first and then tell Manager Niu about your decision." Liu

Ruoyu said matter-of-factly.

"Um." Li Li nodded the head. After he tidied up his apron, he walked toward the kitchen.

Only until he walked away did Liu Ruoyu let out a sigh of relief and then mutter with a low voice, "What will Sister Niu think of that?"

However, that was not what she needed to worry about. The most important thing for now was to prepare the kitchen range.

That's right. Li Li decided to make the Swedish Meatball on site this time to increase some fun and visual enjoyment.

"Head chef, what dish will you prepare in the evening?" The plump and happy main chef walked to him and asked eagerly.

"Swedish Meatballs. Go to prepare some beef shank, the kind without tendons, and a piece of pork shoulder for me," Li Li said naturally.

"Ok. Good job, head chef. How can we lose to a tiny restaurant?" The plump chief chef balled his fist and then said earnestly.

"Of course. Go and prepare now." Li Li likewise nodded the head confidently.

For this war that as devoid of any smokescreens, Li Li never believed that he would lose. He had his own pride and hence selected the same dish to accept the battle.

In his opinion, Yuan Zhou choosing to serve the new dish today was a declaration of war against him.

Out of the self-respect and pride, he would accept the battle and would further chose the same dish to fight back. This was the pride of Li Li.

After lunch time ended, Yuan Zhou walked to the entrance and looked toward the new restaurant. When he saw there weren't many people outside the western restaurant, he returned to his

restaurant with an aloof manner.

Having closed the door, Yuan Zhou grinned, "There's definitely no way out for this guy."

After all, the current imposing manner of the western restaurant had greatly diminished compared the one on the opening ceremony.

Yuan Zhou was very clear about his actual strength while the other party seemed to be not. They surprisingly opened the restaurant on the same day when he served this new dish. The consequences of not understanding his abilities was that they would be severely defeated.

Then, Yuan Zhou went back to the second floor to wash up and get some rest. Practicing in the past few days had consumed much of Yuan Zhou's vigor.

Time passed quickly. The night fell quickly. Yuan Zhou's business time was fixed while Li Li's wasn't.

Therefore, the business time of the western restaurant commenced earlier. Hence, there were still many people that went inside and have a look curiously.

Curiosity was the common ground of humans.

Compared with the long line of customers at Yuan Zhou's restaurant, however, the people that went to the western restaurant seemed much less.

Even the seats weren't fully occupied yet. If the customers that had lined up at Yuan Zhou's restaurant came to eat there, at least two restaurants could be stuffed.

The different timing of the two restaurants resulted in a situation that people who weren't likely to get their turn in Yuan Zhou's restaurant would walk over to the western restaurant. After all, having meals were inevitable.

Coincidentally, one of them was Ma Zhida who had tasted Yuan Zhou's Swedish Meatball at noon. He was regarded as a senior foodie that had tasted all the new dishes of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"What the hell! It's so scary. I intended to come again, but now I don't see any hope." Ma Zhida shrugged to his friend beside him and said helplessly.

"Yeah. I guess those who didn't dare to come at noon are all here. Look, how long the line is!" The friend of Ma Zhida had a very interesting name, Gao Shuai (literally means tall and handsome). Therefore, Ma Zhida called him Gao Fushuai (literally means tall, handsome and rich) every time."

"It seems that we won't be able to eat his dishes today. Let's go to the new restaurant for a try." Ma Zhida came to Li Li's western restaurant naturally according to the principle of proximity.

Once they entered the restaurant, the enthusiastic and considerate service made them slightly happier. They contentedly found a place where they could see Li Li cook.

"Is it an open kitchen?" Gao Shuai asked curiously.

"Hi, Mr. Handsome. It's actually not. As it's our first day, our head chef specially offered the reward so that you can see how this dish of Swedish Meatball is cooked." The waitress called him the name that was just negotiated and explained for a while carefully.

"Mr. Handsome? Ha ha ha." Every time Ma Zhida heard somebody call Gao Shuai like that, he wanted to laugh. There he started now.

Gao Shuai gave him a look of contempt and ignored his attitude. He was originally a tall, handsome and rich guy anyway.

"Swedish Meatball? You also have this dish? Then get us two of that and two servings of steak." Gao Shuai instantly reacted and directly ordered.

"The Swedish Meatball over here? Do you know if it's authentic?" When Ma Zhida heard him order the dishes, he stopped laughing and then said worriedly.

"Let's just taste it randomly to satisfy a craving for good food." Gao Shuai had very explicit expectations to Li Li's craftsmanship. It was merely a food that could at least fill their stomachs.

Li Li had already started to prepare the dishes. Therefore, it took no more than 10 minutes before the dishes were carried to them.

The two of them started to eat while talking and joking, leaving the waitress at the side alone.

"The taste is not bad. We can come to eat next time when we can't get our turn in Yuan Zhou's restaurant." Ma Zhida said naturally.

"Forget it. Dishes here are not cheap. I might as well save the money and go to Boss Yuan's restaurant." Gao Shuai refused flatly.

Just when they started to order dishes, he found the dishes of this restaurant were fairly expensive and was even as expensive as that of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Well, ok." When Ma Zhida heard the dishes were not cheap at all, he immediately changed his mind.

Having eaten for a while, Ma Zhidao suddenly summoned the waitress, "Come over, please."

"What's the matter? Brother Ma, what do you need?" The waitress asked gently with her sweet voice.

"You are a little slow in serving the dish. Look, I'm almost finishing up the meal, but our dishes still haven't been served." Ma Zhida pointed at the table and said discontentedly.

The waitress looked carefully again and again at the table and then asked with puzzlement, "May I ask which dish hasn't been served?"

"The Swedish Meatball. It hasn't been served. It's too slow." Looking at Li Li who was still cooking dishes, Ma Zhida said.

"It's indeed a little slow." Gao Shai also echoed with a nod.

"But these two servings are the Swedish Meatball and you have just eaten them." The waitress didn't get angry. She just said while pointing at the two plates.

Ma Zhida and Gao Shuai uttered with one accord, "Ha?"

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Chapter 327: Invitation To A Contest

"Mr. Handsome, this is the Swedish Meatball." The waitress pointed at the two empty plates on the table and said gently.

"Huh? It has been eaten by us?" Ma Zhida just couldn't believe it. Why didn't he have any special feelings even after he ate it up?

"Yes. The Swedish Meatball for you two is the first dish served." The waitress said unhurriedly.

"But how come that I don't have any special feeling? Gao Shuai, did you have any feeling?" Ma Zhidao asked with puzzlement.

Gao Shuai thought carefully for a while and tried to search for the feeling. But unfortunately, there wasn't the slightest residual taste.

"No." Gao Shuai shook the head helplessly.

"I know that nobody is comparable with Boss Yuan. But this is probably not even close to the ordinary level." Ma Zhida murmured discontentedly.

"I think so, too. There's no difference at all between eating and not eating. It isn't even as delicious as the steak." Gao Shuai also nodded the head and agreed with Ma Zhida.

The waitress was likewise a little embarrassed. Since the two man spoke in public in front of her, of course she would feel embarrassed on hearing their conversation all along.

"Younger sister, I feel this dish of yours makes no difference before and after eating it." Ma Zhida said with a very euphemistic manner, although others didn't really feel that way.

"This dish is cooked by your head chef personally, right? Is it that person?" Gao Shuai pointed to Li Li who was still busy with cooking and then said.

"Yes, Mr. Handsome." The pretty waitress said while looking at

them. She had a very good-looking dimples while smiling.

However, Gao Shuai still said frankly, "I suggest that this dish shouldn't be cooked anymore, as the taste is really too common."

"Thank you for your precious suggestion. Could you please help to fill out the suggestion form?" The waitress said smilingly.

"Sure, no problem." Both the two of them agreed with a nod.

When the waitress brought the suggestion form after they finished the meal, she fetched a plate of refreshing vegetable dish as a gift as well.

Then, the two people filled out the form with their opinions. It was mainly about suggesting Li Li not cook the Swedish Meatball anymore. Of course, the steak was not bad.

Such suggestion forms were usually filled out by most customers. Those who didn't mind the trouble would fill them.

It's just that the suggestions made by them were of two extremes. Those who had never been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant generally felt the current restaurant was terrific. The service was good; the environment was good. So were the taste of the dishes.

Meanwhile, most of those who had been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant nevertheless advised the restaurant not to make the Swedish Meatball anymore. Some even said frankly that the dish wasn't delicious at all.

Therefore, these suggestion forms just made people upset.

At 8:00 p.m., Li Li finally got some time and prepared to have a little rest. At that time, Niu Li came over with a folder in her hand.

"Mr. Li, do you need to see this?" Niu Li lifted up the folder in his hand.

"What's that?" Li Li knitted his brows.

"Let's go to your office." Niu Li didn't answer him, but pointed at the inside of the restaurant and then said.

After a nod, Li Li looked at Niu Li's expression carefully and found she was neither in a bad mood now nor very happy.

They all kept silent on the way, leaving only their footsteps of "Ti Ta, Ti Ta" knocking on the clean floor.

After a sound of "Zhi Ya", Li Li opened the door of his office.

His office had a quite decent layout. The writing desk, office table and bookshelf were all made of solid wood and had marvelous visual texture. The office was neat and tidy and was arranged in good order. It even had a small bedroom for him to have a rest.

Just like that of the senior executives. The only difference was that on Li Li's bookshelf were various trophies and certificates rather than books.

He seemed to be very confident of his own craftsmanship.

Having glanced the layout of the office, Niu Li came to that conclusion.

"Have a seat, please." Li Li invited Niu Li to the the reception room, prepared some tea for her and then asked.

"These are the suggestion forms today. I have checked them. I suggest you also have a look." Niu Li put the folder on the table.

"Alright." It was a work of him being an executive head chef to read the suggestion forms, therefore Li Li didn't feel there was any problem.

He was just surprised with the fact that Niu Li didn't mention about changing the dish. However, he didn't mind it much at all.

It was fairly quiet in the office. There was only the sound of "Hua Hua" made by Li Li while flipping the forms. Niu Li nevertheless just thought over something for a while in silence.

[Swedish Meatball? It's merely some ordinary meatballs. There's none of the exotic taste.]

[The difference is so obvious. I'm too honest to say good words

against my will.]

[The Swedish Meatball cooked by Boss Yuan and this one are presumably two different dishes. I suggest your head chef should learn some more authentic craftsmanship.]

[It tastes not bad if you have never eaten Boss Yuan's meatballs.]

...

"What the hell is this? Are you sure that these are the suggestion forms today?" Li Li directly threw down the folder and said with a tone of disbelief.

"Yes, very sure. These are the suggestions today." Niu Li answered affirmatively.

"Do you also mean I'm not even so good as that so-called chef coming from nowhere?" Li Li said ironically.

"You have seen the suggestion forms. You'd better think it over calmly." Niu Li said composedly.

"Ho Ho. What for? Just with that, you think the Swedish Meatball cooked by me is inferior to his?" Li Li said while complacently pointing at the folder on the table.

"I have investigated both of the different comments. Do you want to know the result?" Niu Li separated the two different comments and asked Li Li while looking at him.

"It's up to you." Li Li didn't really care about that at all. The opinions of only a few customers didn't matter much.

"Speaking of which, I really want to know if that Boss Yuan has ever been to Sweden or Finland." Li Li was totally sarcastic this time.

In his opinion, a person that had never been abroad wasn't qualified at all to talk about the authentic Swedish Meatball.

"Those who spoke highly of your dish all came to our restaurant for the first time and had never been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant."

Niu Li pointed at the thinner stack of the forms on the left and then said, not giving a care about Li Li's complaint.

"Here are the suggestion forms from those who have tasted the craftsmanship of that chef. Basically, all of them don't want you to cook this dish anymore," Niu Li said straightforwardly.

"Ho Ho. You have tasted that before and you tell me." Having kept silent for quite a while, Li Li uttered.

"I have only eaten the Egg Fried Rice once. It's the best." Thinking of the delicious fried rice now, Niu Li couldn't help salivating.

"So you mean I made a wrong move?" Li Li realized what Niu Li intended soon.

"Mr. Li, I trust your abilities." This was the last word from Niu Li. Therefore, she didn't say whether this step was right or not directly.

Li Li likewise sat in the sofa and was lost in a daze.

"Surprisingly, I even lose to a mere nobody, a person who had never been to Sweden." The way that Li Li talked was full of self-mockery.

Although the western restaurant had some customers with their superior service, it was totally defeated by Yuan Zhou on the aspect of dishes.

On the other hand, the motionless and calm Yuan Zhou nevertheless received an inexplicable call.

The dinner time had ended and Yuan Zhou was taking a rest in his seat.

"Ding Ling Ling, Ding Ling Ling", the never-changing telephone ring woke Yuan Zhou up.

"An unknown number!" Yuan Zhou picked up the phone and found it was an unknown number.

He considered for a while and then answered it.

However, he didn't speak first. After all, Yuan Zhou had cheated many takeout business last time.

Although he had set the blacklist and white list afterwards, it still made a lot of noise.

"Boss Yuan, this is the assistant of Mr. Lee Yanyi." The person calling was Yan Jia, the assistant of Lee Yanyi who often came for meals but was always very picky.

That made Yuan Zhou a little surprised, but he still answered, "What can I do for you?"

"It's like this. Mr. Lee Yanyi wants to recommend you to participate in an upcoming food tasting contest. What do you think?" Yan Jia said courteously.

Yuan Zhou, "..."

Chapter 328: Yuan Zhou's Han Chinese Clothing

After dealing with the issue of Lee Yanyi's recommendation, Yuan Zhou went about with his own pace as usual.

...

Early next morning, on the second floor of Yuan Zhou's restaurant,

"I stand, in the strong wind, with the scoop in my hand, and ask who exactly is the hero of this world."

The person who stared at Yuan Zhou was surprisingly way too handsome. He was so handsome that even Yuan Zhou flushed with his heart beating heavily at the sight of him.

Eventually, he felt tired, hence placed the mirror down. He then got up and started to wash up. He changed from his pajamas into the middle clothing and afterwards wore the straight skirt with dark stripes.

As usual, he looked at himself in the mirror and said repeatedly, "I'm an aloof prince charming. I'm an aloof prince charming. I don't like talking much and I don't like joking about."

Actually, Yuan Zhou was fairly funny. When he opened the restaurant at the beginning, he didn't even know where to put his hands and what expression he should reveal on the face, thus he had always been pretending to be aloof.

He just couldn't stop the aloofness anymore. In principle, he was actually quite coquettish deep in his heart.

It was the soup dumplings that were served at breakfast time. People went to and fro. And there were more customers at noon.

The situation became even more dramatic compared to before. After the high-end western restaurant across the street was

opened, the business of Yuan Zhou's restaurant became much better.

This was the reason. Customers that had eaten once in Yuan Zhou's restaurant were seldom lured by the western restaurant, which was referred to as the stable customer base.

The original customers of the western restaurant, however, were surely quite curious while eating. How dare the tiny restaurant set such a high price with its poor service? More importantly, so many people still went there for meals.

Human's curiosity was always immense. Therefore, many customers of the western restaurant came over to Yuan Zhou's restaurant for a taste and then.....

Never went back.

Just like what a regular customer of Yuan Zhou's restaurant said, Yuan Zhou was definitely a superman in the culinary aspect.

"How nice the opposite side is!" Looking at the western restaurant across the street, Yuan Zhou couldn't help sighing with feeling.

"Boss, three servings of Egg Fried Rice Set and one serving of Phoenix-Tail Prawns." Zhou Jia reported the dishes to him and then carried the two glasses of watermelon juice away.

Then Yuan Zhou reacted and started to cook the golden Egg Fried Rice, holding the spatula gracefully.

"Look at his composed temperament! Although he doesn't have exquisite facial features, Boss Yuan actually has a good temperament. He looks much better than those pretty boys outside." The short-haired girl said with a dumbfounded manner.

Yin Ya looked up and down at Yuan Zhou and said with a manner of contempt, "I don't see any good temperament in Boss Yuan, only that he is living better and better now. The previous robe was worth only hundreds of RMB outside, but now, look at this one.

Not to mention the dark stripes, just the lotus flower patterns on the neckband, hemline and sleeve opening are definitely made by hand. It's surely not cheap."

Once the Han Chinese Clothing had any part that was handmade, it would for sure cost no less than thousands of RMB.

"You really have no sense of beauty and no moral bottom line."

Yin Ya then became puzzled. She could at most admit the comment that she had no sense of beauty, but what did this matter have anything to do with the moral bottom line? Previously, whenever she debated on this matter with her intimate friend, she had always lost to her. This time, she must fight back.

"Tuantuan, no matter how much you fawn on Boss Yuan, he still won't offer you any discount." Yin Ya turned the head and asked, "Am I right? Stingy Compass."

"That I have a good temperament is a secret known by all, isn't it? Why do you think it a kind of flattery?" With a sincere puzzled look on his face, Yuan Zhou looked at Yin Ya dumbly.

"..." Hearing that, Yin Ya and her intimate friend Tuantuan instantly felt what Yuan Zhou said made sense and they had nothing to respond.

"Boss, how can you do business in such a way?"

Suddenly, a male voice attracted the gaze of everyone that was in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. When Yuan Zhou turned to look at him, a man in a business suit in his forties was looking at him angrily.

Then, he continued to say, "I just ordered a serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup, but the waitress told me that a dish could only be ordered once. If I want to eat more, I can do nothing but order a Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set."

"For the Clear Broth Noodle Soup and Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set, the first one is 268 RMB and the other is 308 RMB. With 40 RMB more, the set meal has only a bowl of broth and several cloves

of garlic more than the noodles. Isn't it a deception? Even if your dishes are excellent, you cannot cheat your customers like that."

This was a customer that just came from the high-end restaurant to taste the dishes here. He ordered a comparatively cheaper Clear Broth Noodle Soup. Then the protest happened.

"Do you know it's a basic quality for you to meet the customers' demands if you open a restaurant?"

Yuan Zhou nodded the head. He felt what the man said truly stood to reason and thus then passed the message to the system as it was.

"Do you know you will easily lose your customers if you do so? If you don't believe me, you can ask others." Seeing the boss nod his head, the middle-aged man in a suit became angrier. Therefore, he prepared to give some examples.

"Brother, tell me that you are quite dissatisfied with this rule as well."

It was Wu Hai who was being asked. Hearing that, he immediately blurted out subconsciously, "What's the problem? No, not at all."

The middle-aged man in a suit looked at Wu Hai as if he were facing an idiot. What did you mean by saying there was no problem. He was reluctant to admit the failure and hence continued to ask.

"I think these two pretty girls are reasonable. Please, say something fair."

Yin Ya was lost in a daze for a moment and then answered, "I think it's good."

It was good.

Was good.

Good.

The three words echoed in the mind of the middle-aged man in a suit. Right after that, her intimate friend supported her friendly, "I don't see any problem in that. I like Boss Yuan's rules very much."

Other customers also started to talk before the middle-aged man asked them.

"I think Boss Yuan does that to help us to save the money. Otherwise, God knows how much I can eat."

"If there's no limit, I can eat at least three servings of Egg Fried Rice at a time. How dreadful it is! My money will be all gone."

"Boss Yuan set the limit for the sake of the country and the people."

"Not a problem at all. All of Boss Yuan's decisions and rules are supported by me, 100% sure."

...

At last, Wu Hai gave the last shot, "It's very common for some minority not to accept the ordinary people's habit."

After such a long protest, however, he contrarily became one of the minority. The middle-aged man in suit had no more questions. He sat down dumbly and ordered a serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup without saying anything more.

There was a saying among people, "What is motherland? Motherland is what you can complain as much as you want, but once the foreigners say anything bad about it, you have to fight back."

The saying also applied to the several people including Wu Hai. They can complain about Yuan Zhou in various ways in private, but once other non-customers said anything about it, they would retort to make them speechless.

It was merely a small incident. After that, the customers continued to enjoy the meal in order.

In the evening, the first person who arrived at Yuan Zhou's restaurant was still Wu Hai. And Jiang Changxi also came early today.

"You are so early today. Here to draw the liquor again, right?" Wu Hai looked at Jiang Changxi with a manner of contempt, saying, "Let me say something. A girl like you shouldn't drink liquor, or you won't find a boyfriend."

"Liquor and career are the two favourite things in my life. And coincidentally, things such as a boyfriend isn't listed in my life plans." Jiang Changxi answered and then said again, "So I can't feel wronged."

On hearing that, Wu Hai found he got nothing to say. As they were chatting, the customers were getting more and more.

The middle-aged man in suit that was in the restaurant at noon came again. He wasn't Wu Hai that took Yuan Zhou's restaurant as his canteen, therefore he brought a friend here in the evening.

His name was Li Hongji and was working as a senior executive in a listed company now. Being paid as much as tens of thousands of RMB every month, there was no problem for him to have some meals here.

The person that he invited was actually a friend of his rather than his co-worker or superior...

Chapter 329: Tough Yuan Zhou (First)

It was a classmate of Li Hongji. To be exact, the person was a team leader in his former company. His name was Guo Ming. Several years ago, Li Hongji had worked under him and was taken good care of, which Li Hongji had always borne in mind.

There was a saying that a man without ambitions was a failure of a man. Li Hongji was a man of ambitions. He was dissatisfied with the salary of 3000-4000 RMB per month in the state-owned enterprise and thus resigned and then entered his current company.

Guo Ming was an influential man when he was in the college. He was handsome and good at playing basketball. Due to his character, however, he wasn't an ambitious man. After graduation, he had always stayed in this company.

Therefore, Li Hongji often called Guo Ming out to have meals together even when he prospered later. Man cannot forget others' help during his beginning.

"Old Guo, let me tell you something. Dishes in this restaurant are awfully delicious, although there's something wrong with the boss and some customers." The latter part of the word was said with a lower voice intentionally.

Meanwhile, Jiang Changxi, Wu Hai and Ling Hong talked and joked together. However eloquently Ling Hong and Wu Hai spoke, there was nothing they could do except being ridiculed when they faced the Three-Lost woman, Jiang Changxi.

"Our Big Beauty Jiang is obviously the charming type."

"Bullshit. She's actually the queen type."

...

Li Hongji handed the exquisite menu to Guo Ming, saying, "Order whatever you want."

As they came early, they didn't need to line up. In just a few minutes, however, the formerly empty restaurant had been crowded with people."

"Ouch! How blackhearted the boss is!" Upon seeing the menu, Guo Ming screamed with an exaggerated tone.

"Hongji, we might as well go to the western restaurant across the street. The price here is really not low. Why are there unscrupulous merchants everywhere?" The tone of Guo Ming was full of dislike.

"Old Guo, you don't seem to be in good mood. What's bothering you?" Li Hongji was a smart guy. He instantly recognized Guo Ming's mood.

"Still, the woman in my family." Guo Ming was like a rubber ball, the kind that exploded upon being kicked.

"What's wrong with my sister-in-law?" Li Hongji asked hurriedly.

Li Hong had seen Guo Ming's wife merely once and had only a vague impression of her. He could only remember that this sister-in-law was also a younger schoolmate of his. She was also a beautiful girl and finally married Guo Ming.

"She likes buying, buying and buying on the shopping sites every day. I know women need cosmetics and new clothes. But is it really necessary for her to buy so much? She had totally forgotten about her own financial economic means." Guo Ming had quite some resentments, therefore he spoke loudly, "Hongji, do you agree?"

Regarding this matter, Li Hongji also had no idea what to say and hence he had only to try to mediate smilingly, "Absolutely. One should estimate their economic strength before they buy. But in my opinion, women like shopping. As long as it's not excessive, there's nothing to worry about. I also bought things on the shopping site for as much as ten thousand RMB once."

"You are a man. It's different." Guo Ming said, "Do you how much

she has spent on online shopping this year? I don't even dare to tell you."

"How much?" Li Hongji asked and conveniently ordered two bowls of Clear Broth Noodle Soup.

Guo Ming reached out four fingers, "That much, she spent that much."

Before Li Hongji brought out the number that he estimated to be about 40000, he heard Guo Ming say, "4000, no less than 4000. The end of the year is yet to come, she has spent 4000 only."

4000 a year...

Li Hongji was dumbfounded. Was he talking about US dollars or Pounds?

Seeing the stunned expression of Li Hongji, Guo Ming said, "What do you think? It's too much, right? She even bought a pair of shoes yesterday for as much as 300 RMB. I'm too embarrassed to say that. Hongji, don't tell others about it, please."

"Well, Old Guo. As far as I know, the salary of my sister-in-law isn't low. Right?" Li Hongji was too shocked to know what to say.

"She works in a private enterprise as a middle-level manager and has only a salary of a little more than 30000 RMB per month." Guo Ming said with a manner of contempt.

The three people of Jiang Changxi who had been talking and joking stopped talking now. Guo Ming's voice was so loud that they could hardly ignore it.

Especially Wu Hai. He revealed a dumbfounded expression on the face. Earn 30000 RMB per month but only spend 4000 RMB a year. Was it much?

"Old Guo, I remember that your salary is just a little above 5000 RMB every month, right?" Li Hong said.

"My monthly salary is 5800. But it's different. I work in the state-

owned enterprise and have a stable life. That kind of small private enterprise where she works will probably go bankrupt someday. At that time, she can only depend on me for our living."

He then continued, "Therefore I really cannot accept the way she spends money."

Even a middle-level manager got a monthly salary of 30000 RMB. Was such a private enterprise small? This kind of enterprise was either a China top 500 enterprise or the star enterprise of this district. Would such an enterprise go bankrupt at any time?

"I have a small question. How do you know how much my sister-in-law spend on things?" Li Hongji asked.

Then Guo Ming brought out another astonishing thing, "She isn't good at managing money matters, so I keep her wage card. Every time she buys something on the online shopping site, there will be an SMS alert. And I keep the record."

"... What if my sister-in-law uses money?" There was a change in Li Hongji's tone. Of course, Guo Ming didn't recognize that at all.

"I will give her some pocket money. Usually 700 RMB per month, sometimes 800," said Guo Ming.

"800 RMB? What if there's a colleague party?" Frankly speaking, 700 or 800 RMB was merely the cost of a dinner to Li Hongji. For example, a bowl of Clear Broth Noodle Soup and a bowl of Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set cost more than 500.

"What could a woman buy to spend so much money?" Guo Ming answered.

Then Li Hongji didn't know what to answer. But right after that, another voice passed.

"You are a man, what would you spend money on?"

It was Jiang Changxi who disliked such kind of male chauvinist most. Obviously, Guo Ming was even worse than an ordinary male

chauvinist. Revealed from his words was the contempt for females.

What the hell does "What could a woman buy to spend so much money" mean? What the hell does "Men are different" mean?

Having suddenly been interrupted, Guo Ming became unhappy in his heart and hence retorted straightforwardly, "Guys have to negotiate business and attend various business parties. Just not long ago, I just signed a sales contract amounting to more than 300 thousand RMB. All these activities require money. Women definitely can't do it."

Instead of answering him, Jiang Changxi just made a call and commanded to the other end, "I need to see you in Yuan Zhou's restaurant in five minutes. Bring me the ordinary contracts signed this month."

Absolute silence in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. All the customers looked at Jiang Changxi and Guo Ming.

Four minutes later, a female assistant arrived at the restaurant with the contracts.

"Pa"

Jiang Changxi threw the contracts on the table. Of course, all the contracts was closed.

"This is the contract amounting to 30 million RMB that I signed with Hongsheng Group at the beginning of this month and this one is one about 45 million RMB signed with the foreign enterprise, Alpha, on 5th of this month."

Pieces of contracts were stacked on Guo Ming's heart like a high mountain.

"I don't even give it a sh*t about contracts valued less than 5 million RMB." Jiang Changxi stared at Guo Ming with her beautiful eyes and then said, "These contracts were all signed by me at business parties. Who told you that women cannot do it? Please repeat what you said just now."

Only till now, Wu Hai and other people knew that Jiang Changxi, this Three-Lost woman, was actually a female president and finally got to know why Jiang Changxi could drink so much liquor.

It was really dangerous for a beautiful female president to drink liquor during business parties if she was unable to hold her drink.

Under her gaze, Guo Ming flew into a shameful rage. He straightway retorted, "I'm talking with my friend. What does it have anything to do with you? Anyhow, you are a president, but you don't even have the basic courtesy. Just as expected, women have long hair and short wits."

The time for Yuan Zhou to come on the stage arrived...

Chapter 330: Tough Yuan Zhou (Second)

Jiang Changxi was squinting her eyes. People familiar with her all knew that she was now at the peak of anger.

"This gentleman, may I ask for your name?" Yuan Zhou walked to Guo Ming and Li Hongji, asking Guo Ming directly.

"What? Even a small boss like you has a problem?" Guo Ming was now in a state of fury. Right after he vented at Jiang Changxi, he turned his gun to Yuan Zhou.

"Sorry. This friend of mine isn't in a good mood." This person was brought here by Li Hongji. He was fairly embarrassed in such a situation.

"Never mind. What's your name?" With a solemn look on his face, Yuan Zhou spoke as if he were asking something important.

Seeing that, Jiang Changxi and Wu Hai that had intended to say something became dumbfounded and swallowed their words temporarily.

"Guo Ming. What's the matter?" Guo Ming still answered impolitely. He just stared at Yuan Zhou and said that.

"I'm very sorry. I don't think I can serve you anymore." Yuan Zhou said indifferently with a tough attitude.

"What do you mean? Do you know you are driving your customer away?" Guo Ming instantly got irritated. He stood up and said intensely.

"I don't mean anything. When I opened the restaurant at the beginning, I went to a diviner to predict about my future business. I was told that I would be unable to get along well with a person called Guo Ming. Never did I expect this prediction to be true". Yuan Zhou talked seriously and earnestly as if this thing had really happened.

"Er... What kind of diviner could be so awesome that he could even tell this guy's name?" Even Li Hongji didn't believe that ridiculous excuse.

"Out, please, sir." Yuan Zhou didn't care if the excuse was full of loopholes and just started to drive him away.

After all, this kind of person really affected his mood for cooking.

"Chuckle... I really love the prim manner of Boss Yuan." Jiang Changxi couldn't help laughing and saying first.

"Exactly. Please, go back where you come." Pointing at the entrance, Wu Hai also revealed a gesture of seeing him out.

"It's not your place. I insist on eating here today. I have paid the money." Having recognized their intention, Guo Ming flushed and shouted.

"Just like you said, I'm the owner of this tiny restaurant. Your money will be doubled and then returned to you. Please." After saying that, Yuan Zhou took out the money and handed it to Zhou Jia. Obviously, he was reluctant to have contact with Guo Ming.

"Zhou Jia, send him out." Yuan Zhou said to Zhou Jia who had already itched for a try.

"Sir, as you should know, no law stipulates that the boss must cook dishes for you." Zhou Jia had endured Guo Ming for quite a while. As a waitress, however, she couldn't say that out. Now that the opportunity was here, she naturally spoke it out quickly.

"You, you guys!" Guo Ming whispered dumbly that he was a cultured man and could not be bothered to argue with a woman. However, his face became liver-colored and he became lisp.

"Please, sir." Zhou Jia made a gesture of "Please".

Then Guo Ming left angrily. Before leaving, he didn't even give his friend, Li Hongji, a glimpse.

Sometimes, people were very polite when they were angry. It was

like a kind of disguise. Taking Yuan Zhou and Zhou Jia for example, both of them were extraordinarily courteous even if they actually wanted to throw this person out of the door.

"What an embarrassing meal it is!" Li Hongji heaved a sigh and became a little speechless.

"Your friend is more interesting than you." Wu Hai likewise didn't like Li Hongji, therefore he talked with great sarcasm.

"I'm just curious how his wife could marry him. I'd rather stay single for a lifetime than marry this kind of man." On thinking of that, Jiang Changxi was a little angry. She even threw out dirty words.

"It might be the state-owned enterprise that changed him. Formerly, he was an influential person in our college. He was skilled in many fields and also looked handsome. Many young girls went after him at that time." Li Hongji didn't really mind Wu Hai's sarcasm, but explained the matter that Li Hongji had wife.

"Ho Ho. I don't think he can attribute his failure to society." Jiang Changxi revealed a dismissive smile. To her, that was just an excuse and a manifestation of weakness.

"Maybe you are right. Speaking of which, can I eat two servings of the dish?" Li Hongji tried to change the embarrassing subject.

"One serving has been returned. So, you can't." Zhou Jia pointed at the money on the table and said lightly.

"Forget it. I'll just keep mine." Li Hongji wasn't in a good mood. After saying that, he was lost in silence.

Nevertheless, other customers waiting behind started to discuss.

"Was that person really an influential man in former times? He wasn't even as outstanding as me." A customer said discontentedly.

"You are right. Even a person like him could have wife. Why can't I?" It was a customer who was still single.

"I guess she might be very ugly. No one wants to marry her except him." Another customer said with a low voice.

Sometimes, men were better in gossiping than women.

"I feel that woman also has problems. Since her husband is like that, why doesn't she control the money?" A male customer said that.

"That makes sense. Women are said to be a good college. But this one obviously is not." Someone nodded the head approvingly.

"I still believe it's supposed to be the problem of appearance." This one insisted on the appearance theory.

"His wife was the most beautiful woman in the class. She's extraordinarily good-looking." Having heard them gossip for quite a while, Li Hongji couldn't help uttering that.

In his opinion, the wife of Guo Ming was fairly sad.

"The most beautiful in the class? God, I'm more jealous of him now." As an excellent single man, this customer revealed an expression of envy.

"Does his wife know what he is doing now?" Jiang Changxi knitted the brows and asked.

"Even he knows that his wife isn't good at managing the money matters. So she definitely knows about that." On this point, Li Hongji was quite sure.

"Then why doesn't she leave him?" Jiang Changxi asked with puzzlement.

"I'm not his wife. How do I know? Li Hongji said spitefully.

"How many years are they married?" Ling Hong who had kept silent just now suddenly asked.

"Quite a few years. I have never counted the specific years." Li Hongji thought for a while and said.

"Have they been together for long before they got married?" Ling Hong asked some detailed questions.

"They fell in love in the college time. At that moment, they were the best couple." While talking about him, Li Hongji couldn't even believe that his former superior would end up like that.

When Ling Hong heard that, he kept silent for quite a long while and then said as if he had experienced that before, "Who she loves now is probably not the person in front of her anymore but the memory of the influential person during college."

Women were strange. They apparently knew that they could no longer go back then, but they would still be affected by the former memory.

In most cases, women were said to be too softhearted to leave the bad man. That wasn't actually demeaning. It's just that the bad man had left her a period of good time, which was sufficient to heal the wounded heart of women.

"Memory?" Jiang Changxi let out a sigh and understood what Ling Hong meant. Although she was reluctant to admit, she occasionally had the same feeling.

Speaking of which, she had intended to tell that woman directly to leave Guo Ming just now.

However, it was merely an impulsion. She can't do that. Every man was best known to himself. Even if she told her, the woman wouldn't follow her advice. Moreover, what standpoint could she advise her by?

Having heard Ling Hong's word, Jiang Changxi reacted a little bit.

If the road is uneven, you can try with your feet and step on it. For some affairs, however, you just couldn't go up straightforwardly and help others.

Thinking of that, Jiang Changxi got more depressed. She could

only say sadly, "Unfortunately, there's no liquor right now."

...

Chapter 331: Ingenious Invention

The customers fell silent due to Ling Hong's words. Yuan Zhou, nevertheless, was paying for the matter that he drove that person away.

The cause of the incident was naturally Guo Ming's words which made Yuan Zhou unable to bear anymore. In reality, such a man was simply a joke, the kind that could never be found in the world.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou directly called the system when he heard Guo Ming finish his words.

"What are the conditions if I violate the Chef's Guideline?" Yuan Zhou asked the system straightforwardly.

There was a provision in the Chef's Guideline that the chef should concern himself with stomachs and not with individuals. It was definitely not an option to drive customers out.

"Chef's Guideline can't be violated."

"Come on. Don't be so wordy. Say, what condition is needed?"

The system displayed, "You have to level up the title of Master of Cooked Wheaten Foods."

"How?" Yuan Zhou had obtained this title for quite a long time and used it for many times. But never had he been reminded of any levelling before.

Of course, what was also unforgettable was the regulations about the limited business hours that came along with the title free of charge. Seen for the time being, the limited business hours were fairly scientific.

The system displayed, "The way to level it up has been released. You can check the first cabinet on the right."

"Is it a paper?" Looking at the cabinet at his hand with puzzlement, Yuan Zhou paused for a while and then pulled open

the cabinet.

It was definitely not because he was unable to tell the direction just now.

He reached out his hand and groped in the cabinet. It was a book about 1cm thick and the size was quite ordinary.

The system displayed, "Host, please read through it within half a year and then you can level up."

"It's not thick at all. I can even finish it in one day. Even if I am busy, I can finish the work in three days." Yuan Zhou said confidently.

The system displayed, "That is just the table of contents of all the books."

"..." Instantly, Yuan Zhou choked.

How many books were there if even the table of contents was so thick? Yuan Zhou opened the book and took a look and then he found out, as expected, that it was the table of contents. All was about books on cooked wheaten foods.

What the hell!

"System, is this the table of contents for books on cooked wheaten foods throughout the world since it's so thick?" Yuan Zhou especially stressed on the three words, "table of contents".

The system displayed, "This table of contents only includes Chinese cooked wheaten foods."

"It's really a beautiful pitfall. But I will take it." Yuan Zhou took a deep breath and then agreed to the requirement.

Then, Yuan Zhou naturally drove Guo Ming out of his restaurant after he had just been entrapped by the system.

On the other side, a man called Xin Kui who often came to Yuan Zhou's restaurant was making the daily complaint about his name. The word "daily" meant that he made the complaint several times a

day.

Xin Kui had always felt his parents named him wrongly. With the fact that he was so hard-working and made outstanding contributions to the society as well as the arduous life style, he deserved a name more well-known to others, Xin Ku (meaning work hard).

It absolutely had a sense of a revolutionist. It was obviously a good name and people could know his severity from his name.

A continuous ringtone suddenly sounded before he finished complaining and directly interrupted him.

Only then did Xin Kui take off the glasses and knead between the eyebrows before he walked through his messy laboratory unhurriedly. Only then did he answered the ever-ringing telephone.

"Xin Ku, are you busy recently?" Once the phone was answered, there came a question from the other end.

"Yuan Hou, are you back from the stone age? Coincidentally, I have finished the greatest inventions throughout history ever. It absolutely would be shocking." On hearing that, Xin Kui instantly became excited unlike his previous state of laziness and said with joy.

"Don't bullshit with useless words. I found a good place. Shall we get together in the evening?" Yuan Hou stopped the more and more excited voice of Xin Kui at the other end of the phone.

"Where and when?" Having barely stopped talking, Xin Kui intended to explain his latest invention in details when they met. He would necessarily make Yuan Hou experience the peerless charms of the new intentions.

"9:30 in the evening and at the crossing of Taoxi Road." Yuan Hou said spiritedly.

"Taoxi Road? Wow, you have surprisingly evolved and know that

place." Xin Kui rolled his eyes and didn't remember any high-end restaurant around the area. Only Yuan Zhou's restaurant outshone others over there. Therefore, he said jokingly.

"What are you talking about by evolving? Do you really want to drink the morning dew and eat the flowers? Come on, man. But frankly speaking, it's more or less the same. Dishes in that restaurant are simply the best in the world." Yuan Hou said gently, pretending to be serious.

"I know more about that than you do. I am also a regular customer and have been there for several times." Xin Kui didn't trust the moral quality of Yuan Hou at all, but he trusted his own.

"Even a man that always forgets time while doing research like you knows to eat delicious foods now?" Yuan Hou said with great interest.

"Ok. See you there at night and I will tell you about my new invention." Xin Kui hung off the phone decisively. Otherwise, he would pour out his own invention right now.

Yuan Hou nevertheless shrugged helplessly at the other side. There were many benefits to being friends with Xin Kui except for one thing. That is, he took the experiments and inventions as if they were his wife.

Dreadful!

Having hung off the phone, Xin Kui put away the phone. It was merely about 7:00 and there were still two hours left, which was sufficient enough to make another experiment. He could verify if there was any defect on his new invention according to the theory of positive and negative return current.

"Gonna be late, gonna be late, gonna be late."

In the quiet and messy laboratory sounded the clock alarm. Xin Kui raised his head, bewildered, and looked around before he reacted.

It was almost 9:00 p.m. Xin Kui stood up and patted on the cuff of his sleeves and collar before wiping the dirt on his body leisurely. He intended to change his clothing and then go there.

After he prepared everything, Xin Kui set out. If he was late, Yuan Hou would probably become the irritated King Kong.

Xin Kui knew this place and naturally didn't need to drive. He wasn't lazy. It's just inconvenient to park a car in Taoxi road. Therefore, he preferred to take a taxi.

Having made the decision, Xin Kui went out of the door quickly.

When he arrived at the Taoxi road smoothly, he happened to see Yuan Hou who was dressed in black casual clothing.

"I'm here, Yuan Hou." Xin Kui got off the car and waved his hand to greet him.

"Wow! Looking good." Yuan Hou took a few steps forward and punched him lightly for greetings.

"Of course. I have a new invention and will explain the details to you shortly. Let's go. It's going to rain at any time." Xin Kui was anxious to talk about his new invention and hence urged him.

"What a coincidence! We can only eat the BBQ served by Boss Yuan on rainy days. How fortunatet it is!" Yuan Hou said with a smile.

Speaking of invention, Yuan Hou totally couldn't understand the way his friend thought. He always tried to invent a series of things like rain gear or toothpicks for repeated use.

However, the theories used definitely sounded high-ended and outstanding, which he can't understand anyway.

On Boss Yuan's BBQ day, one merely needed to walk a few hundred meters from the quiet crossing before they walked into a quite different world of great bustle and enthusiasm. It formed a sharp contrast with the formerly quiet atmosphere.

There was a long line of customers outside Yuan Zhou's restaurant. With a simple glance, there were about 30 people there. Xin Kui walked unhurriedly and leisurely.

Nevertheless, Yuan Hou dragged the unhurried man, Xin Kui, forward to the line swiftly like a cat whose tail was stepped on. It was absolutely the speed of a sprint...

Chapter 332: [Kong Yiji](#) In Real Life

Dragged by Yuan Hou, Xin Kui lined up together with him.

"It's just something to eat. Why can't you wait by yourself? What do I have to wait here for?" Xin Kui was a little lazy.

"What do you know? We can buy two servings of the BBQ only with both of us waiting here," Yuan Hou said.

"The boss of this restaurant simply makes it resemble the one of the descendant of the royal chef. Look at the long line." Standing at the end of the line, Xin Kui complained for a little bit.

"It's not comparable to this one. Boss Yuan becomes talented through self-study. He is totally the savior of foodies. I'm 5kg heavier than before." Yuan Hou made eyes at him.

"Just sighing with emotion." Xin Kui straightforwardly answered.

"I have also been here several times. With Boss Yuan's craftsmanship, even his enemies are reluctant to strike his hands." Yuan Hou revealed a manner of drooling with envy and appeared fairly funny.

"Hey, watch out. Don't drool. I have also eaten the dishes for some time but never acted like you." Xin Kui revealed an expression of contempt.

In just a moment of those few words, there appeared another ten people behind them. Xin Kui looked back at them speechlessly and totally didn't know what to say.

"Now that we are in the line, let me tell you something during this short interval. This time, I have invented two new things. What an awesome man I am!"

He became complacent himself even before he said anything.

"I have invented a new type of environmental product this time.

With the wheat flour as the fundamental material, it is shaped directly through molecular condensation reacting in high temperature and pressure. So in the future, even the dinnerware could be edible." Xin Kui added, "What do you think? Am I awesome?"

"Is it delicious?" Yuan Hou only cared about that.

"It isn't a problem whether or not it's delicious. The key point is that it's environmental. You know that?" Xin Kui said, "You seem to have little awareness of the importance. I might as well tell you about the other invention of mine."

"Stop, stop. Let's talk about that after we have the meal. First, think about what you want to eat later." Yuan Hou rolled his eyes and uttered.

While they were talking, they got their turn. Yuan Hou quickened his pace hurriedly and stepped into the door. Xin Kui had only to swallow up his words and followed him.

After they entered the restaurant, they got them seated at the long curved table and waited there to order their dishes without any guiding.

"Here are all the kebabs. You can order whatever you like." Yuan Zhou turned the head while pointing at the kebabs that had been sorted out.

After he said that, he started to grill the kebabs in his hand.

Because of the timing of the BBQ, he didn't let the two girls come to work. It wasn't good for a girl to go back too late.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou was working as the waiter by himself now. Luckily, his customers had gotten used to helping themselves by now.

Yuan Hou only knew the dishes here were delicious and he had only eaten the main cuisines. Nevertheless, it was the first time that he had eaten the BBQ. Therefore, it was also the first time that

he had seen this rule.

This rule was really matchless. One wasn't allowed to order the BBQ but had only to wait until it was allocated to them randomly. Boss, does your kitchen know that you were so awesome?

If the kitchen could talk, it would probably answer like that.

Kitchen, "I know, I know. There's no problem at all."

"Don't be so picky. They are more or less the same. The taste is undoubtedly delicious. You can taste it in a moment." Xin Kui shouted, "Boss Yuan, two servings of us two."

"Ok." Yuan Zhou's voice passed from inside of the face mask.

"What is there in the random allocation?" Yuan Hou was fairly curious.

Before Xin Kui was ready to answer him, however, Wu Hai approached.

"Bro, you came for the first time, didn't you? Actually, I can help you with some kebabs shortly if you can't eat them up." After Wu Hai ate up the kebabs in his own plate, he captured Yuan Hou's question easily and then approached them shamelessly.

After he was rebuffed by Yuan Zhou, Wu Hai learned to be smart occasionally and studied the military method of roundabout ways. He aimed at the new customers, thinking that he might be able to eat some from their plate.

Although he took the restaurant as his private canteen every day, Wu Hai nevertheless indicated that he could still eat more by 100 RMB.

"Just ignore him. Wu Hai, don't even think of cheating us." Xin Kui immediately said.

"No, I'm not cheating at all, but offering help. Bro, I can help you with it in a moment. No need for thanks." Wu Hai's awe-inspiring righteousness was even believed by himself.

"We can eat together shortly." Looking at that many kebabs, Yuan Hou answered frankly

"Don't blame me for not reminding you. Let's eat separately shortly. I won't share mine with you." Xin Kui announced first.

"Let's skip this subject. What's the second invention that you talked about just now?" Yuan Hou suddenly asked Xin Kui about the matter that he was interested in.

"Let me tell you. The second thing that I have invented absolutely goes well with human life. It's able to promote people's life for at least 30 years. Through the photoelectron theory and test of X-ray, it's definitely a qualified product." Xin Kui said excitedly.

As a professional painter, Wu Hai indicated that he totally couldn't understand what the guy was saying. For the sake of the delicious dish later, however, Wu Hai chose to be a listener.

He summarized his thoughts in a sentence, "No matter how strange it sounds, I choose to listen to you."

"The former disposable chopsticks have greatly wasted natural resources since it would be thrown away after being used once. In order to solve this problem, I have carried up a research as long as one year. Through various experiments and investigation, I have finally invented the chopsticks that could be used for the second time. This is definitely the top technology nationwide currently," Xin Kui explained with excitement.

"Puff!" Wu Hai was choked, "Chopsticks for secondary use?"

He must have been so hungry that he started having delusions. Otherwise, how could he have heard such weird things such as secondary-usage of chopsticks? It was all Yuan Zhou's fault.

While grilling the BBQ earnestly, Yuan Zhou suddenly felt his ears were a little hot. He heaved a sigh. It was a sin to have a good appearance. It was definitely because some girls were talking about him. After all, he not only looked handsome but also cooked

delicious dishes. Apart from that, he can also earn money. More importantly, he had a good temper.

Good temper. There's nothing wrong with that.

"Through assorted experiments and repeated failure, I finally made the chopsticks that can be used for the second time. After all, it avoided the processing methods such as smoking with sulfur, soaking and bleaching with hydrogen peroxide solution and sodium sulfate and the burnishing with talcum powder that all harm us humans. The reason why the disposable chopsticks couldn't be used repeatedly was that its function would degrade after being used once. If it's used for the second time, it will do great harm to people. I just prolonged the service life of the chopsticks through a special treatment. Even if it's used for the second time, there will be no problems at all." Xin Kui spoke excitedly and happily.

Yuan Hou stroked his forehead. He had already known it would be like that.

"Then what did you invent the chopsticks for? According to your theory, I might as well use this kind of chopsticks." Wu Hai felt severely shocked. He raised the chopsticks in his hand and said. If not for the BBQ, he would have already cursed him an idiot.

Undoubtedly, this guy was stupid.

Loving to invent wasn't a problem, nor was inventing trash. But it was too much to say so many technical terms and waste so much time to invent such a thing.

Hearing that, Xin Kui became dumb and didn't know what to say.

"Here is your BBQ." Yuan Zhou carried the plates personally to them and set them down.

Rarely would he offer services to his customers by himself.

Yuan Zhou would never admit that he came over here to look at the talent that had invented the recycled chopsticks with

reverence.

After all, this guy always invented some strange things every time. But basically, none of them had the actual use or value although they sounded great.

He was truly funny. Wherever there was unhappiness, there was him...

Kong Yiji is a character in a novel who is pedantic, obstinate and indigent. He appeared in a novel of Lu Xun, the greatest Chinese literator in the early 20th century.

Chapter 333: Li Li's Personal Visit

On the following day, in the western restaurant Masterwork Nonsuch, Li Li looked at Yuan Zhou's restaurant crowded with customers across the street and then at his own restaurant that had much less customers. The sharp contrast made him quite dissatisfied.

"What do you think is wrong with our executive head chef?" A waitress asked with a low voice.

"I don't know, either. He has been standing there and staring blankly for a whole morning." Another waitress beside her said smilingly.

"Although my smile is becoming stiff, I don't dare to stop smiling. What about you?" The third waitress had a sweet smile on her face.

"Exactly. What's wrong with our executive head chef?" The waitresses were quite interested in that.

"Don't you discover why? He is looking at the tiny restaurant." A waitress that passed by chimed in with a same smile on her face.

The several waitresses kept smiling in the whole course when they were talking and weren't discovered by others that they were actually chatting. Every time a customer passed by, they made time to greet him. They were simply the most professional waitress.

Even if they were chatting, the customers felt at home.

"I have heard of that tiny restaurant. It's likewise said to serve delicious dishes. And besides, the dishes are too expensive." The waitress slightly glimpsed at outside of the restaurant and then said affirmatively.

"It seems to be true. On the first day after our restaurant opened for business, most customers went to that restaurant." The waitress Xiao Jing that had ever entertained Wu Zhou

remembered the happening that day and still showed a stunned expression even now.

"Yes. But that restaurant doesn't look good. It's said that there's only one waitress there." Since it wasn't really far, the waitresses basically knew everything about Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

There was a waiter who even lined up and eventually went into the restaurant, but he didn't eat before leaving immediately. What a joke! They were merely curious about it rather than preparing to eat so expensive dishes. If he had girlfriend, they might be able to be extravagant once. For now, however, he felt the working meal provided by his restaurant didn't taste bad.

"But our business is also good." A waitress looked at the nearly fully-occupied seats in the main hall and asked with slight puzzlement.

"How do you think that way? The reason why they come here is that they can't get their turn at Yuan Zhou's restaurant." Another waitress whispered with a low voice.

"Even so, they are the customers of our restaurant." The waitress said straightforwardly.

"But he's not here because of the intrinsic attraction of our restaurant." There was also someone who was clear about that.

"Our executive head chef is coming to us." A waitress reminded lightly.

Then they stood well there instantly and maintained their composure. When Li Li walked close to them, they immediately greeted, "Hi, executive chef."

"Um." Li Li nodded the head with a solemn expression.

"Ta Ta Ta". Li Li walked toward his office with unhurried paces.

On the way back, many staff greeted him and he answered with a nod in most cases as if he had been considering something very

important.

Not until he walked to the door of his office did he act as if he had made the final decision. He shut the door after a sound of Peng", took out his phone and started to make calls.

There clearly appeared two characters of "Niu Li" on the screen. Obviously, he called the short-haired woman.

The phone was put through soon. Niu Li answered with her mild tone, "Master Li, good afternoon."

"Good afternoon. I have a question to ask you." Li Li didn't like beating about the bush. Instead, he asked straightway.

"Of course." Taking the phone, Niu Li had actually worked out Li Li's question.

"I prepare to go for a taste once. The Swedish Meatball." There was full of reluctance to admit failure in his tone.

"Ok, Mr. Li. Just go ahead." Niu Li agreed and didn't say anything else.

"Good bye." Hearing that, Li Li hung off the phone directly.

Looking around at his own office, Li Li took off the chef's hat earnestly and put it away carefully. Then he took off the chef's uniform and changed into his business suit. After that, he appeared tall, straight and spirited from head to foot.

Not knowing exactly why, Li Li specially wore PatekPhilippe. This was a brand-name watch that was worth millions of RMB. The dial plate was blue and the shell was golden. The watch band made from the calfskin leather made it very comfortable when it was worn on the wrist.

The watch of men was like the jewelries of women. It was a symbol of identity and fascination.

Wearing this valuable watch, Li Li walked out of the restaurant with aggressive pride.

The two restaurants weren't far from each other. It took Li Li only about 5 minutes to get to Yuan Zhou's restaurant to line up.

When he was about to skip lining up and walked into the restaurant, he was stopped outside.

"Sir, if you wanna line up and have the meal, this way please. If you just look around randomly, please don't get in the way." The tall and slim man went up and said courteously.

"I'm acquainted with your boss." Li Li knitted his brows and said earnestly.

"I'm sorry. Many people tell me that they know Boss Yuan. But still, you can't cut the line." The tall and slim man should have heard many people say so every day.

"How long shall I wait to get the turn?" Looking at the long line, Li Li asked.

"About 1 hour. Who know exactly?" Seeing Li Li line up, the tall and slim man shrugged and then left.

The tall and slim man had volunteered to maintain order for quite a long time. He had been doing quite good and didn't make any mistake.

Having released a long sigh, Li Li suppressed the anxiety in the heart and then began to line up.

As for other customers at the side, they had been quite used to such a scene, even if some one immediately recognized the brand-name watch worth millions of RMB.

After about 1 hour, Li Li finally got this turn.

When Li Li entered the restaurant first, he knitted his brows unconsciously. The cramped space and the small table and chair appeared quite crowded in Li Li's opinion.

If the people felt depressed in the cramped space, how could you expect him to have a good appetite?

He then found a satisfying place and got seated and then waited for some body to come and take orders.

"Sir, what do you want to eat?" Zhou Jia didn't know Li Li at all.

"The Swedish Meatball." Li Li straightforwardly answered.

"OK. One moment, please." Zhou Jia brought out the price and then told Yuan Zhou.

When he came inside, Li Li thought for an instant and didn't say hi to Yuan Zhou.

Eat the dish and then leave right away. This was the idea of Li Li.

During the business time, Yuan Zhou usually wouldn't carefully observe customers. Therefore, he didn't know this plate of Swedish Meatball was actually ordered by Li Li.

After receiving the meatballs, Li Li first carefully studied the entire dish and then began to taste it. As a specialized chef, it was necessary for him to savour the cuisine.

"No cranberry jam matches the dish?" Looking at the ingredient that the dish was short of, Li Li murmured to himself.

Having studied it for quite a while, Li Li finally found out the mechanism of this dish after a sound of "Ka La".

"It's really quite yummy." Li Li praised with a restrained manner.

Then? There was no then anymore. Li Li was totally immersed in the delicacy of the meatball. Every bite would release some gravy into his mouth. The thick cream and butter plus a little black pepper formed the most wonderful taste experience.

Alright. Even if it was in such a crowded atmosphere, there was a wonderful taste experience.

"The taste indeed surpasses mine." After the meal, Li Li didn't give up but instead became spirited.

It was said that an unknown rival was dreadful. If you had

known about your rival, he wasn't that dreadful anymore. After all, the unknown was the source of the dread.

"Such a kind of mechanism is quite useless. It's merely a small trick to attract customers' attention." Li Li played the mechanism again and then said affirmatively.

"I finally find your weak point." Li Li murmured to the empty plate alone.

At least, it was like that in other customers' eyes.

Of course, he ate up the dish at the same time while he was studying it with a fairly quick speed.

Naturally, he left the restaurant and went back to his restaurant the moment he ate it up. In Li Li's opinions, the Swedish Meatball cooked by Yuan Zhou didn't look perfect, like the plate presentation as well as the redundant decorations.

Even when Li Li was eating, he completely forgot that he himself was also a cook. He was captured by the delicacy at the first time.

Li Li felt that he could improve this dish further and fight against him again.

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Chapter 334: Drinkers of the Tiny Pub

The business hours of Yuan Zhou's restaurant were never sufficient for him. It passed soon. On the other side, some people also felt that way.

"Pa Pa Pa". The MX Soft Tactile keyboard emitted a melodious sound in the darkness. With the brilliant colors shining in the darkness, the keyboard appeared extraordinarily conspicuous.

"Pa", after going through a series of swift finger movements on the keyboard, a complicated continuous jumping action was completed. Then Zou Hai let out a sigh of relief.

He won!

He could probably get the reward of a grand bonus package next time.

When he saw the words Game Over on the screen, Zou Hai exercised his skilled fingers slightly and felt it necessary for him to offer them a reward.

He prepared a cup of instant coffee for himself and sipped it contentedly. With his eyes and brows stretching out, he was quite relaxed.

"Dong Dong Dong"

A series of cluttered knocks came from the door. Zou Hai knitted his brows subconsciously and went to open the door drowsily after a slight hesitation.

After the door was opened, a forty-year-old man could be seen standing outside.

The crease-free business suit was tidy and neat, without any trace of wrinkles, even the hair clung neatly to his head. Judging from his appearance, he was a very serious man.

"Little Hai, what are you doing recently at home? Still playing

online games?" The serious manner of the man made the wrinkles between his eyebrows deeper.

"No, I have stopped playing. It's not interesting." Immediately, Zou Hai answered without any hesitation.

"What do you mean? I told you many times before that it's not a proper occupation and you should control yourself. But you tell me what you said to me then?" The man looked angrier.

Upon mentioning that, the man felt very angry. Teenagers during the rebellious phase were known to be uncontrollable. If you let him chase after the chicken, he would definitely run after dogs, doing the opposite of what was told.

Unfortunately, Zou Hai was more than 20 years old and had already got out of the rebellion phase. However, he was still disobeying his parents. He had been addicted to online games for the past two years and constantly practiced it, even joining various clubs. He was just in a state of madness.

He didn't follow anyone's persuasion and was always indulged in them with the fine-sounding excuse that the e-sports were promising and they can't be demonized. Perhaps, he could get a gold medal with the e-sports.

He stuck to that theory firmly. No matter what measures were taken, they wouldn't work. He just refused to give up until all hope is gone.

Anyway, the online game industry seemed to be booming again suddenly over the past year. Finally, there was something to look forward to and his son could barely make a living out of it as a proper business.

The man comforted himself like that. The perennial headache was likewise relieved slightly. But today when the man called Zou Hai, he suddenly told the man that he would quit online games. The man got irritated again immediately.

"Tell me once again what you told me just now on the phone. Not playing anymore? Weren't you desperate for my consent?" The man said angrily.

"It's just not interesting and I don't want to continue. Didn't you tell me that online games were all trash?" Zou Hai said carelessly.

He leaned on the door and revealed a lazy manner by putting his left leg on the right leg. Meanwhile, he crossed his arms across the chest and slightly turned up the corner of his mouth, answering his father vaguely in an absent-minded state.

"What bullshit are you brat talking about?" While speaking, the man took a step forward and stared at his son in anger.

Suddenly, a mild voice passed, "Do a father and son really need to talk so aggressively? Can't you have a good conversation?"

The next moment, they heard footsteps of high-heeled shoes on the ground, "Da Da Da".

An elegant woman dressed in a beige overskirt walked to them with split steps with some anxiety on her still attractive face.

"Mum, it's nothing important. Don't worry." Seeing his mum, Zou Hai stood up straight, not seeming as lazy and careless as before.

"Hu"

The woman probably had a weak body. She breathed for an instant before regaining some energy with the help of the man. She then stared at the two people, staying silent after making a discontented "Humph".

"Little Ya, don't worry. There's nothing special. I just have a matter to tell our son." The rigid features of the man became soft and even the way he talked slowed down.

"Humph..." Without giving an affirmative or negative answer, Zou Hai just humphed but didn't retort anymore.

"That's good, that's good. Just converse normally, please." The woman's tone of voice was elegant and agreeable, with a unique watery tenderness and softness that comes from the area south of the Yangtze River.

"Please be rest assured. I will return soon. You go first."

The man sent the woman to the door of the room and saw her go inside before returning to Zou Hai.

"Little Hai, one of my friends has developed an online game and needs somebody to help. You must go." The man hardened his face and said stiffly.

"What game? Just a stuff that wastes time. I won't go." Zou Hai wasn't satisfied at all and hence answered carelessly.

"No matter what you say, you have to go. You have no other option." The man got a little impatient while frowning.

"Let's talk later." Zou Hai answered indifferently.

Regardless of the man's solemn expression, Zou Hai returned to his own room.

"Peng"

The door was shut immediately. It was a quite different world from outside.

The man pinched the wrinkled eyebrows and sighed secretly. He didn't say anything else and then left.

Having returned to his own room, Zou Hai looked at the shimmering computer and stayed where he was like a wood, not knowing what he was thinking of.

"It's no big deal." Zou Hai muttered to himself.

"Pi Li Pa La", the computer keyboard emitted the sound for a while. Staring at the game interface attentively, Zou Hai moved his fingers about on the keyboard like dancing.

The speed was extremely fast. With a simple glance, he could be recognized as a skilled player.

"Di Di Di"

A melodious chord ringtone sounded. Zou Hai got around to look at the phone and then found the name Su Mu appearing on the screen. He hesitated for a little bit and the single-handed skill showed up again.

After a wild finger movement, Zou Hai moved his left hand to the phone. He clicked the screen with the finger and instantly the call was put through.

"Hai, come out and play. I'm very lucky today and have drawn a grand prize. So we can go to Boss Yuan's place to drink liquor." The euphonious voice of Su Mu passed from the other end of the phone, with a trill in the end sound, which made Zou Hai frown.

However, he still asked, "What the hell is this Boss Yuan?"

"It's very good liquor. Were it not because Sister Jiang did have no time, you would never get this opportunity." Su Mu said with a tone of displeasure.

"You can go there alone. I don't want the honor. I'm so busy." Zou Hai answered indifferently.

"You aren't practicing the APM of various skills, are you? You have maxed them out already. Is there room for any more improvement?" Su Mu was puzzled.

"What are you talking about? I have quit online games long ago," Zou Hai said firmly.

Looking at the bright screen, Zou Hai fell silent. Nevertheless, the way he talked revealed his indifference to that. Obviously, he spoke without thinking.

"That's great. Come to No. 14 of Taoxi Road. Remember the place by heart and arrive here at 8:00 p.m. on time. I guarantee you

won't regret coming here." After saying that, Su Mu hung off the phone decisively, not caring if Zou Hai agreed at all.

Chapter 335: Main Mission (First)

"I don't want to go..." Zou Hai hadn't finished his words before the call was hung up.

"Beep Beep Beep"

There was only the continuous busy tone left. Zou Hai showed the whites of his eyes speechlessly. What a deceptive guy!

Having zoned out for a while, he looked up at the clock and saw the hands of the clock point toward 7:30. He then tidied everything up very quickly and set out. When he arrived at No. 14 of Taoxi Road, the clock hand happened to reach 8:00.

Perfect, not a minute more or less, right on time.

Zou Hai smiled happily. He felt quite pleased by arriving exactly on time.

"There you are. Hurry up. Time to go inside." Su Mu turned around, preparing to step into the restaurant.

"Tsk. A man looking so good better be cautious," Zou Hai grumbled.

"What an inferior restaurant it is! Why do we have to come here for a drink?" Zou Hai asked.

"Hey buddy, don't worry. I can help you to drink it. The liquor isn't suitable for you."

A hearty voice passed from behind them before Su Mu had time to answer him. He turned the head and then saw Chen Wei walking to them with big strides alone.

"What? You come alone this time? It is better that we help you with the liquor. I believe you are unable to finish it by yourself?" Su Mu raised his eyebrows and smiled.

"Haw haw. Don't worry. With my physique, I definitely have no problem finishing it and even have extra strength to help you."

Chen Wei patted on his chest and revealed a manner of "You can count on me."

Su Mu just smiled and spoke no more. He turned around and walked into Yuan Zhou's restaurant with Zou Hai.

Shen Min stood there gracefully alone with a courteous smile on the face. She took a few steps forward and greeted, "Welcome. This way, please." While saying that, she led the three people to the sergestes wall.

"Boss Yuan, there's a new customer. Do you want to come for a drink?"

When Su Mu passed by the kitchen and saw Yuan Zhou was still busy with his work, he couldn't help asking him.

Yuan Zhou raised the head and took a glance at the several people. Wearing the face mask, he didn't say anything but continued doing his own work.

"Sorry, my boss is working. Please, this way." Shen Min felt a little embarrassed. She quickened her pace hurriedly, opened the blank door and showed the way.

"The EQ of this boss is so unbelievable," Zou Hai murmured.

After Yuan Zhou's five senses were strengthened by the system, every part of his senses was under his control. Zou Hai's words were naturally captured by him easily, too.

Only after Shen Min and other people left did Yuan Zhou take off the face mask. He was actually a little shy.

Although he had always felt his EQ was very good, it wasn't so unbelievable. Such straightforward praise made him slightly embarrassed. After all, Yuan Zhou was a thin-skinned person.

Behind the sergestes wall was a path paved with small stones. The winding path led to a secluded quiet place, which had no difference from other places except the several sculptures along

the path and the small garden at the side.

Zou Hai took a careful look and then found that they were actually sculpted. They were vivid and in different shapes, which made Zou Hai suddenly have some expectancy.

"Are they sculpted by the boss himself?" Pointing at these brilliant sculptures, Zou Hai asked Su Mu.

"Of course. Boss Yuan's craftsmanship is absolutely god-tier. The dish of Phoenix-Tail Prawns is also a unique dish. We can come and taste it someday. It will definitely be an unforgettable experience." Su Mu knew that Zou Hai preferred to eat dishes of Jiangsu and hence mentioned.

"Phoenix-Tail Prawns? The real phoenix tail?" Zou Hai hadn't eaten the authentic Jiangsu dish for long, therefore he was a little tempted.

"It surely is. Just looking at Boss Yuan's actions that are as smooth as the floating clouds and flowing water is a kind of visual enjoyment, let alone the unique taste. It's simply perfect," Su Mu said quite earnestly.

"Really? Then we can come for a taste provided that we have the opportunity," Zou Hai answered.

"Come on. Let's discuss that later and talk about the pub now. What about we three sit together? Then we can have two bottles of liquor. Just thinking about that makes my blood boil." Chen Wei said to Su Mu and Zou Hai excitedly.

"Actually, you can also join me." The mild voice of Fang Heng passed from behind them.

"What are you here for?" Chen Wei was very dissatisfied with the person that affected his plan.

"Each of us is alone except Su Mu. Why couldn't we get together? Anyway, we are all here for Boss Yuan's liquor."

Fang Heng said in a calm mood. He appeared rather gentle and didn't reveal any manner of anger. Of course, one word that could describe a person like him was shamelessness.

While talking, they arrived at the second floor. The square bamboos were still standing there still. The moonlight and the lamplight blended together, giving people an atmosphere of quietness.

Zou Hai felt the atmosphere was not bad and then followed Su Mu to get seated at a table. It had entirely different feeling to sit around bamboos grown inside.

The consequence of both sides grabbing Zou Hai was that none of them took the advantage of him. Finally, they still ended up with drinking their own.

Shen Min started to get the liquor for them deftly and cleanly.

A delicate fragrance floated out along with Shen Min's actions. With his nose moving slightly, Zou Hai smelled the fragrance of the liquor. It was really good liquor.

When it was served on the table, the fragrance became stronger and simply made people unable to resist the temptation. People couldn't help swallowing it up right away.

Chen Wei carried up the cup meticulously and took a deep breath before pouring it into his mouth slowly. He savored the aftertaste carefully and had to admit that it was really top-notch. Along with the fragrant and crisp Drunkard's Spiced Peanut, it was simply the utmost bliss in the world.

Zou Hai looked at the amber liquor filled in the cup with plum blossom patterns that appeared good and then took a deep breath. He carried the wine cup up to his nose and felt as if the wintersweet flowers were blossoming in front of him. Even the taste was becoming stronger.

He sipped it lightly. Like the mellow and smooth pear juice, it

directly rushed to his throat with a slight pungency. The taste was so mellow that the drinkers directly lost their hearts to the taste. Zou Hai drank up another gulp of the liquor hurriedly and squinted his eyes and started to enjoy.

"How do you like it? The taste is good, right? You didn't come in vain, huh?" Su Mu drank up a mouthful of the liquor contentedly.

Su Mu never liked using chopsticks when he ate peanut kernels. There he started to pick up the seemingly toothsome peanut kernels with his slender fingers. Normally, one would appear rough while doing the same, but Su Mu did that gracefully, quickly but not messily.

"It's not too bad. It's just what it should be." Zou Hai answered after he drank up a gulp of the liquor swiftly.

Without any special expression on his face, Zou Hai began to eat the peanut kernels quickly. In just a little while, half the peanut kernels were eaten. He moved the chopsticks so quickly that he appeared totally professional, which didn't conform to his words at all."

"Obviously it's delicious. If you don't like it, you can share it with me. I don't mind drinking more at all," Chen Wei said loudly.

"No need. Even if I don't like it, I will drink it up with tears." Zou Hai refused cleanly.

"Then why did you say it's not good? Inexplicable!" Chen Wei said discontentedly.

"There are so few people here. Although it's said to be well-known, there's not even a foreigner and thus it isn't international. My evaluation is fairly just." Zou Hai spoke so reasonably that even he himself believed that.

At the same time, due to Zou Hai's quibble, Yuan Zhou received a mission from the system, more specifically, a main mission...

Chapter 336: Yuan Zhou's Day

The pub was quite noisy. They talked and joked with each other for only one purpose, that was, to cheat for some liquor of others.

Due to the evaluation matter, Chen Wei was now arguing with Zou Hai.

In the meantime, Yuan Zhou was improving the dishes so that he could serve new dishes as soon as possible. It was also Yuan Zhou's pursuit to keep serving new dishes. At that time, the system suddenly popped up.

The system displayed, "The requirements for the main mission have been reached and the main mission has been released."

[Main Mission] To entertain at least 1000 foreign customers

(Mission tips: As a world-class tiny restaurant, how could you continue business without the support of foreign friends since you have an exotic dish now? Host, please work hard to increase your skills. I have confidence in you.) [Mission reward] A set of western-style dishes with a total of three servings and also one set of standard western food etiquette.

(Reward tips: A handsome reward can be a solid foundation for the host to become the Master Chef and Prince Charming.) "System, I find that you always keep pace with the times." Yuan Zhou naturally heard Zou Hai's loud voice just now but he didn't actually care much about it.

The system displayed, "Self-promotion is not allowed."

"System, you are so arrogant." Seeing the system pay no attention to his words, Yuan Zhou could only mumble to himself dumbly.

However, the system still didn't answer him this time. He thoroughly adhered to that principle of "Silence is golden."

"What's the standard of being a foreigner?" Yuan Zhou was a

little confused.

There were lots of foreigners in China now. And many of them had successfully applied for China's nationality. However, they still had been foreigners formerly.

The system displayed, "You can differentiate them based on their current nationality."

"I am not likely to be able to inspect the nationality of others. How am I supposed to differentiate them?" Yuan Zhou was quite puzzled.

The system displayed, "Don't worry about that. It'll be solved automatically then."

"If you say so, I won't worry anymore now." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

On this point, he trusted that the system wouldn't cheat him.

Observe the mission carefully and then complete it in an attempt to increase the completion of the mission.

Having kept silent for a while, Yuan Zhou suddenly uttered, asking, "I can understand about the Master Chef. But what do you mean by Prince Charming? Would you change my appearance?"

Yuan Zhou was thinking which part of his face needed to be changed. It had to be inconspicuous but meanwhile still can highlight his pretty face. He was thinking about that very earnestly.

As for the dishes in his hand, they naturally had already been prepared and set down at the beginning.

The system displayed, "The only fundamental factor is an improvement on temperament."

"You are so damn right that I even don't know what to answer," Yuan Zhou said dumbly.

"System, could you first tell me what three servings of dishes

mean?" Yuan Zhou was fairly interested in this problem.

The system displayed, "You won't know that until you complete the mission."

"Good. What does western food etiquette mean? I can guarantee that it isn't something to eat." Yuan Zhou looked at the name of the reward and had a bad prediction.

The system displayed, "Yes, host, you are right. You can get it the moment you complete the mission."

"You really are a system that advances with the times." Yuan Zhou was rather speechless.

Yuan Zhou was debugging the system and testing the functions, mainly by asking one question and then another, to test the ultimate endurance of the system.

Most of the time, however, the system was in the state of silence. It would only answer once after tens of questions.

At the other side, Li Li was also working. The pure white chef uniform and the clean chef's hat that he was dressed in appeared very clean and spotless. If you looked carefully, you would find the neckband, elbow and the cuffs were all very clean.

"Duk Duk Duk". While taking two broad kitchen knives in the hands, Li Li chopped the meat stuffing continually on the chopping board.

The meat stuffing was divided into two colors. One was the dark red beef without any tendons and the other was the marbled pork.

With his hand up and then the knife down continuously, he chopped the beef into the meat stuffing swiftly. The other knife was held in the other hand and moved slightly slower, but did not fall behind by too much.

Therefore, the meat stuffing on both sides was prepared at the same time.

"Hu... Finally it's good and I can add the secret recipe now." Li Li let out a sigh of relief and then took out a bag of soft-packaged, jelly-like semisolid.

This thing was what was used to put in the meatballs when Li Li went to Finland. Many chefs like using it as it could make the meatball very tasty and delicious.

Li Li had been there for an exchange of pointers and hence obtained some of it. However, he managed to figure out the compounding ratio soon.

Now it was available to be used.

While the meatballs eaten in Yuan Zhou's restaurant made Li Li quite motivated, he also felt a sense of crisis. Therefore, he hadn't rested ever since he came back from Yuan Zhou's restaurant and had constantly been experimenting the compounding ratio to put it into the meatballs.

There had been quite a few plates of various shaped meatballs on the long countertop.

Each shape was exquisite and beautiful.

One was the shape of a phoenix spreading the wings. It was so vivid that even the feathers on the wings were visible.

The other was the shape of the peony. Each of the blackish red petals scattered on the plate was clearly visible and they matched the meatballs well.

The most common one was probably the Swedish Meatball carried in the bamboo basket.

There were many more meatballs that hadn't been shaped. It could easily be seen that Li Li had prepared lots of meatballs to practice.

"It's supposed to be perfect this time." While deep-frying the meatballs, Li Li thought that positively.

Yuan Zhou's meatball was always fried while Li Li liked deep-frying them. He believed that only in the high temperature could the gravy be locked up instantly and the taste more aromatic scorching, with the gravy becoming more abundant.

...

After the repeated experiments overnight, Li Li finally found out the recipe that he believed to be perfect. He put the stuff into the gravy, which made the meatball more delicious.

Then, Li Li summoned Liu Ruoyu energetically on the next day even though he had stayed up overnight.

"The main dish served at noon today is the Swedish Meatball." It was the first words that Li Li said to Liu Ruoyu.

"Alright. I will notify all the waiters right now." Without saying anything else, Liu Ruoyu straightforwardly nodded.

Originally, Liu Ruoyu was in charge of the main hall and Li Li was in charge of the kitchen. Even if Li Li's meatballs came back with a lot of negative feedback, Liu Ruoyu would still follow his instructions without any hesitation.

Having notified Liu Ruoyu, Li Li went back to the kitchen to prepare and waited to commence business at noon.

Mornings always passed quickly. In just a little while, noon arrived. Conventionally, after Yuan Zhou's restaurant became too crowded to entertain more customers, a small part of the remaining customers would come to the western restaurant "Masterwork Nonsuch" and began to eat lunch.

"Hey. There's also the dish of Swedish Meatball over here. Look, the price is almost the same. Shall we order one and have a try?" Looking at his younger sister, Su Mu raised the eyebrows and asked.

"Brother, do you believe the one served here is delicious?" Su Yuesheng knitted her brows discontentedly.

"At least we have to try." With his beautiful peach blossom eyes slightly squinting, Su Mu shrugged and indicated it didn't matter.

"Two servings of the Swedish Meatball." Although Su Yuesheng was dissatisfied, she didn't disagree. Therefore, Su Mu directly ordered two servings.

"Hello customers. This is the main cuisine prepared by our executive head chef. The taste is very good." The waitress said warmly.

"Um. Got it." Su Mu nodded the head.

Then the waitress went to report orders. As for the taste of the Swedish Meatball this time, they wouldn't know it until they savored it...

Chapter 337: Yuan Zhou Buying Books

While Li Li was busy with the issue of the Swedish Meatball from last night to this morning, Yuan Zhou went out in the early morning to wander around.

Of course, that happened after the breakfast time ended. Otherwise, the customers, foodies and the big eaters would surely cause a riot at his restaurant.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou only came out and wander around during the break. Of course, he had a mission with him.

Thinking of the index book about one inch thick, Yuan Zhou had the strong urge to greet the system with bad words.

"Luckily, I didn't bring the index book to come out to buy books. Otherwise, I will definitely be judged as a fool." Yuan Zhou held a slip and felt rather fortunate.

As for the system that heard Yuan Zhou's words, it wouldn't take notice of him.

The sky of Chengdu City was as unpredictable as a kid's face. In the blink of an eye, it changed from a wide clear, sunlit sky to cloudiness.

"Ta Ta Ta"

Yuan Zhou walked towards his destination step by step along the avenue and looked up at the cloudy sky.

To go to a nearby place or the planned site, it was a question that was worth pondering.

Originally, he hadn't intended to come out at this time of day. He had to entertain the customers at noon, thus there wasn't sufficient time. Besides that, the destination wasn't near. Yuan Zhou had actually thought of writing a request for leave.

However, he failed to find a festival related to books.

Nevertheless, the main reason was that he had not given any notice beforehand.

It was every animals' instinct to seek advantages and avoid disadvantages. In conclusion, it was out of fear of being beaten...

But Yuan Zhou's purpose was right. Books were the greatest gems of human wisdom and nutrition of humans. Having a collection of books was much better than having immense wealth.

One's knowledge wasn't based on the quantity of books bought or kept in the study room. Instead, it was based on how much he had read or digested.

"I'm an intellectual and moreover an intellectual that loves reading. Every cell all in my body is permeated with the breath of culture."

"I think I ought to tell my friends that I'm buying books. I'm not only handsome but also capable of cooking. Besides, I can cook delicious dishes and earn a good money." Stroking his chin, Yuan Zhou felt the suggestion was quite attractive.

"Would a well-equipped and cultured prince charming like me be torn to ribbons?" Yuan Zhou muttered to himself.

While thinking aimlessly, Yuan Zhou walked quite a while longer before he reached the destination. In order to showcase his good physical condition, he chose to go there on foot.

"I walked here for green and low-carbon life, definitely not because I want to save the taxi fare of 7.5RMB or the bus fare of 3RMB." Yuan Zhou looked back at the long journey and praised himself for a while consciously.

He turned the head and then saw the banner overhead, saying, "12% Discounts for All Books of This Bookstore. Hurry, please!" The deadline was exactly today.

88 was a fortunate number and the advertorial didn't cheat him. Yuan Zhou maintained his taunt face happily and appeared

extraordinarily solemn, not showing his feelings at all.

"Hi, Sir. Welcome." A short-haired beautiful girl that was dressed in the business suit came up to greet him enthusiastically.

"May I ask what kind of books you need? I can introduce the specific locations to you." The smile of the short-haired girl was just perfect. Her attitude was enthusiastic but not disgusting.

Yuan Zhou had been to this bookstore for quite a few times. The messy stuff that Wu Hai asked him to buy last time was bought over here. Besides, he had the VIP membership in this bookstore, therefore he could have a higher percentage of discounts. An inexplicable sense of pride filled his heart.

"Um. Tell me where I can find books on cooked wheat products, please." Yuan Zhou nodded the head and said with a reserved tone.

"Please follow me." The girl brought Yuan Zhou to the second floor directly to look for related books.

"It's changed quite a lot, right?" Yuan Zhou looked around and suddenly asked.

"Yes. We increased the number of books. You can even find the popular novels that are serialized through internet here." The short-haired girl pointed to the bookshelf after a nod.

"Um. Looks good." Yuan Zhou nodded the head, indicating his consent.

When she saw Yuan Zhou looking around the bookstore, the girl introduced the bookstore to him while walking forward.

"There are five floors in this Haohan Bookstore. We have children's books, youngsters' books, classic novels..." The girl introduced the details to him dutifully. Only after that did they leave and go to the next division.

Of course, there was also a mark in each row to roughly classify different divisions. Otherwise, Yuan Zhou would never find all the

books in one day.

Following the guidance, Yuan Zhou only intended to buy up the books on the first page of the index book first.

He reached out his slender fingers and checked the book carefully one by one in hope of finding what he was looking for. Just in a little while, he found 8 books. Unfortunately, there were still approximately half books that hadn't been found.

"Do you have the books of Road to the Cooked Wheaten Food, Quick Tips of Nice Cuisines...?" Yuan Zhou reported ten books in one breath to a thirty-year-old attendant and asked.

"No, we don't." The woman looked at Yuan Zhou in surprise and then answered courteously.

"No? Then do you know other places that sell them?" Yuan Zhou knitted the brows and felt a little complicated.

The woman glanced at Yuan Zhou in surprise again and then answered, "Basically, none of them are sold. Most of these books have been no longer published. You can choose something else." While saying that, she turned around and walked away.

Yuan Zhou was a little dumbfounded. What the hell was that? Not available for sale, nor for publishing?

On hearing that, he was slightly surprised. After thinking for a while, however, he cheered up instantly.

"System, what do you think of that? They are not published anymore. Does that mean that I can skip them?" Yuan Zhou inquired about the system's opinions with a seemingly kind-hearted manner.

The system displayed, "The reward has been released to you."

Although Yuan Zhou felt the system wasn't likely to simplify the mission, especially on the aspect of culinary skills, he still felt a little sorrowful when he was refused mercilessly.

"But it's because it's out of print now. It's an unforeseen factor," Yuan Zhou said primly.

The system didn't answer him. Its meaning has been made very obvious. Since Yuan Zhou had already received the reward, there was no way to cancel the mission.

"I suddenly feel the shiny floor here is so attractive that I like it very much. So if you don't say anything, I will feel the cold surface of the floor."

Yuan Zhou glanced at the white tile after he said that primly, with a conspicuous intention of lying on it if the system didn't give him a satisfactory answer.

In front of the system, Yuan Zhou didn't have the aloof manner of a prince charming at all. The only thought was that he could get something more from the stingy system. That would be a victory.

The system, "Host, you can buy the books from the online bookstores or read the PDF electronic books."

"The price is more expensive than those in the actual bookstore. You know the bookstore is offering discounts today and moreover I have the membership. See, VIP?" Yuan Zhou took out the glittery membership card dumbly.

Provided the system had an inner voice, it would definitely have a mental breakdown.

The system, "Considering the difficulty in completing the mission, the system will randomly offer the reward of One Hundred Ways of Making [Mantou](#)."

A successful blackmail!!!

...

Mantou is a plain steamed bun with no fillings, a kind of cooked wheaten food.

Chapter 338: Yuan Zhou's Singing

Having obtained the system's compensation, Yuan Zhou immediately felt as if he had eaten a ginseng fruit and that every pore all over his body had opened. He really wanted to yell out "Excellent".

"A successful move." Yuan Zhou summarized.

A bright mood would naturally bring more wits. Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of a terrific idea. The fact that this bookstore didn't have these books didn't mean that other bookstores didn't, either.

This bookstore wasn't the only one in Chengdu City. Most importantly, other bookstores probably also had special offer.

On thinking that he could save quite a little money again for an extra pancake and a boiled egg, he felt it just awesome.

No sooner said than done. Yuan Zhou took out his phone and started to look for other bookstores or bookstalls nearby with Baidu. If it was too far, he would inevitably give up as there wasn't much time left before the restaurant opened at noon.

Although he didn't fear the customers' complaints, he had no desire to see Wu Hai grumble to him repeatedly when he went back late.

Yuan Zhou fished out the phone quickly and began to leaf through the websites. Suddenly he got a shine in his eyes, finding that there was a fairly big bookstore just two blocks away. He estimated there would be the things that he needed over there.

For the sake of money, he had to charge forward. With Yuan Zhou's current revenue, the little bit of money was nothing to be particular about, but every piece of money was the unique work of art. He had to protect it.

"How smart and clever I am!" Yuan Zhou put away the phone and

rushed toward it.

He had to pass by a very big square to get to the bookstore. Seated in the central part of Chengdu City, the square was flourishing. The roads were twisting and winding and the vehicles were crowded.

Yuan Zhou often passed by this place, therefore he was quite familiar with the roads. Having estimated quietly in his heart, Yuan Zhou found that taking a bus wouldn't actually be faster than walking. It might even be slower than walking.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou decided to choose the most environmental and friendly way of travelling, by walking.

"Di Di Di"

He evaded from the busy traffic stream and came to the front of the big square along the sidewalk.

An unknown activity seemed to be in preparation on the square. The stage had been set up and the staff members seemed to be doing the final preparation work.

"Hello, hello, hello."

A young man who had delicate features and was dressed in a casual jacket was right standing on the stage. After he checked the microphone for audition, he stood still at the front part of the stage and prepared to commence. He appeared to be a host.

"Dear ladies, gentlemen, old men, children and all, good morning. Right now we are holding the releasing conference of new cellphones of our company. Shortly, we'll play a small game. If anyone is chosen and he can finish the game, he will get generous gifts." The young man was refined and courteous while his voice was loud and clear.

As the young man's voice passing quite a distance, the people around began to gather gradually. Humans had the characteristics of gathering together. Therefore, as long as people gathered, one

totally didn't need to worry about the popularity.

In normal times, Yuan Zhou would surely get together with others for fun if he was free. However, it wasn't a good time now, so he didn't join them. He just passed through the crowd and straightforward walked to the other side.

"Now, whoever gets the lucky light could come up onto the platform and sing a song. After finishing another test, he could get the super prize." The mellow voice of the young man passed to everyone.

Right following that, a beam of colorful light began to move around from left to right and scatter in all directions.

Yuan Zhou had walked to the edge of the other side and was about to leave when the beam of light fell on him. He was almost dazzled by the light.

"Sir, sir, congratulations on getting the precious opportunity. Please come up onto the platform." The voice of the young man was quite penetrating.

Yuan Zhou wasn't good at singing. It was unlike the food ingredients that was easy to handle and work with great efficiency. Besides, he didn't like being watched by others on the stage, so... Without any hesitation, he walked onto the stage.

"Ta Ta Ta"

Seeing the host take the microphone and run to him, Yuan Zhou stood still there and no longer moved.

"Sir, you are the first lucky person today. Please come up onto the stage and sing a song. After you pass the quiz, you can take our prize. This way, please." The young man said earnestly.

With his face tightly taut, Yuan Zhou looked at the young man solemnly and just kept silent.

"Sir, what a rare opportunity it is. Do grasp it." The young man

continued saying that.

"I am unable to sing." Yuan Zhou answered.

"Never mind. Participation itself is more important than the results. The more important thing is the quiz later on. Apparently, you are a clever man and there are definitely no problem." There was full of allure in the voice of the young man.

Although Yuan Zhou felt the young man had really sharp eyes to know he's clever, he was definitely not good at singing. Therefore, he wasn't tempted at all.

"If you can pass the quiz, you can obtain the super prize package for free from our company." The young man said.

"I am really not good at it." Yuan Zhou answered primly.

"It doesn't matter. As long as you can pass, you can get the prize package, inside of which is the latest cellphone of our company. Look, it's the sample." The young man finally used the most powerful weapon.

Yuan Zhou took a look at the cellphone with graceful design. It looked to be top-grade and was indeed shining.

"I suddenly recall a song that's just tailored perfectly for me. I think it suits the current atmosphere best." After that, Yuan Zhou disregarded the dumbfounded expression of the young man and grabbed the microphone and then walked onto the stage handsomely.

"Ke Ke"

Yuan Zhou let out a dry cough and looked around at the people off the stage, not knowing what the stage fright was at all. It was known that he had refused the golden-collar worker, the famous painter, the second-generation wealthy young master, the big boss and moreover the princess charming.

That's right. If these people appeared before him right now, he

would refuse them all again. This was just the aura of being a God of Refusal.

Seeing Yuan Zhou talking with such influential auras, the host became fairly expectant. Once Yuan Zhou opened the mouth, however...

"How lonely it is to be matchless; how meaningless it is to be matchless. I stand alone in the cold wind..." With a solemn expression on his face, Yuan Zhou kept a taut face and began to sing.

The lyrics were dynamical and forcible. Along with Yuan Zhou's rigorous and earnest face and his rigid body movement, the scene was too perfect for people to watch directly.

When it went to the part of the song's climax, the young man straightforwardly grabbed the cellphone at hand, went up onto the stage and then stuffed it into the other idle hand of Yuan Zhou. After that, he took the microphone and said, "Sir, this is your prize. Congratulations that you have won the prize."

Yuan Zhou was a little stunned while touching the cellphone in his hand. There seemed to be something wrong with the development. But now that he had got the prize, it was good. It was definitely his beautiful singing that helped him pass beforehand.

"Isn't there another quiz?" Yuan Zhou was a person who obeyed rules.

"That's not important. It's good as long as you get the prize." The young man with smilingly.

For fear that other audiences had any objection, Yuan Zhou intended to explain something. When he looked down at them, however, he found the former crowd had already been gone, with only a few cats left there.

After a shrug, Yuan Zhou felt so many people had grasped the deep meaning in the lyrics and gone home. It was really admirable.

Looking at the crowd off the stage, the host really wanted to cry. How hard he had worked to gather so many people around!!!

It was no longer early. Yuan Zhou rushed to the bookstore hurriedly and searched for a while. Finally, he found two books listed on the index book. And more fortunately, both of the two books had a discount of 1%. It was really a fortunate timing.

After he finished the due work, the lunch hours started. Looking at the long line of customers outside the door, Yuan Zhou felt quite a few ease.

Luckily, he managed to get back.

Chapter 339: The Secret and Usage of the Mechanism

In the western restaurant of Masterwork Nonsuch.

"Please wait for a while. The dishes are to be served right away. Please eat some pre-meal fruits," the waitress said kindly.

"Please serve us some java apples." Su Mu didn't really like the fruits on the plate.

"Ok. What do you need, Miss?" After a nod, the waitress turned his head and asked the young girl at the side.

"A cup of watermelon juice, please." Having recalled the watermelon juice in Yuan Zhou's restaurant, Su Yuesheng had a sudden inspiration and replied.

"Ok. One moment, please." The waitress answered with a nod and then notified the food runner beside her.

"You might as well eat the watermelon rather than drinking the watermelon juice," Su Mu pointed at the long countertop and said.

"It's supposed to be freshly squeezed, isn't it?" Su Yuesheng was a little puzzled.

"It's definitely freshly squeezed. But I'm not sure which part they would use to make the juice." Su Mu didn't believe they would use the core of the watermelon to make the juice.

Such a thing would be done by nobody except Yuan Zhou, that frenzied obsessive-compulsive disorder victim, in this country.

Su Mu was actually wrong. Making juice from the core of the watermelon, which cost thousands of RMB in auctions, didn't exist in foreign countries as well.

Even thinking of that made him feel speechless.

"I suddenly just want to drink it now," Su Yuesheng admitted

truthfully.

"It's up to you. This brother is just reminding you kindly." Su Mu stroked his own face.

"Brother, do you think the dishes here are delicious?" Su Yuesheng suddenly asked.

"No, they aren't." Su Mu answered affirmatively.

"Then why did you still come?" Su Yuesheng stared at her brother in surprise.

"Shall we go back to line up?" Su Mu looked back at the long line and suggested.

"Forget it. When do you think we can get our turn if we go now?" Su Yuesheng pursed her lips and looked at the long line discontentedly.

"That's why." Su Mu shrugged.

"Ok." Su Yuesheng answered and continued to stare blankly.

"Why didn't you take Sanmiao with you?" Seeing his sister gazing into space blankly, Su Mu directly interrupted her.

"She didn't feel good today. When I took her to the pet hospital, she met another cat and played with it and couldn't stop. I will go back to pick her up shortly." Only when she talked about the cat Sanmiao did Su Yuesheng spoke long paragraphs.

"A male cat?" Su Mu was a little surprised.

What Su Yuesheng raised was a pure-breed Chausie with two different-colored eyes, which was very rare to find.

Generally speaking, only the white cats had the two different-colored eyes. However, Su Yuesheng insisted on asking for a black one.

She looked for quite a while before she found this one. It was clingy and slightly haughty. No one was allowed to touch it except

Su Yuesheng.

Even the pretty face of Su Mu was almost ruined by the cat's claws. From then on, Su Mu no longer liked that cat called Sanmiao.

"No. Sanmiao likes the white and quiet female cat." Su Yuesheng talked about the cat's hobbies as if enumerating one's family valuables.

"Alright. Whatever." Su Mu didn't care about that cat at all.

"Here are the dishes for you two. Please take your time." While they were discussing, the waitress carried their dishes up.

"Thank you." Both thanked the waitress courteously.

"Nice shape." Su mu poked the petals that were designed for decoration.

That's right. Li Li had cut the daikon into very thin slices and then soaked them in the boiling water. After they became clear, he made them into the shape of petals for plate presentation.

The meatballs that were placed inside had thick gravy poured over them.

In the middle of the plate was the mashed potato while at the side was a small plate of cranberry sauce.

"Chi, Zi". The chopsticks emitted slight sounds upon touching the plate.

It turned out that Su Mu was looking for something in his own plate.

"What wrong, brother?" Su Yuesheng asked curiously.

"Why isn't there any novelty in the dish? Now I don't have expectations." Su Yu checked around the plate and didn't find any suspected mechanisms. Then he said sadly.

"Brother, we are not in Boss Yuan's restaurant." Su Yuesheng was

also a little speechless.

"If I knew it was like this earlier, I wouldn't have ordered this dish," Su Mu said unwillingly.

"Let's eat right now. We have to go back in a while." Su Yuesheng was at her wits' end while dealing with this occasionally childish brother.

"Tsk." There was full of dislike in the tone of Su Mu.

Only when he saw Su Yuesheng eat first did he start to eat it, too.

Su Mu enjoyed eating the meatballs along with the cranberry sauce.

After all, sweetness and sourness was a good match.

After the meatball was dipped into the sauce, however, Su Mu began to dislike it while looking at it.

"What's this?" Staring at the meatballs between his chopsticks, Su Mu found it hard to eat it.

"What's the matter, brother?" Seeing Su Mu not swallow it for long, Su Yuesheng asked with puzzlement.

"Do you think it is delicious?" Su Mu compared his meatballs with his sister's and asked carefully.

"Not too bad. It's like the creamy version of Lion's Head." Su Yuesheng didn't like the sauce. She usually ate it directly.

"Lion's Head? Then it's not too bad." Su Mu was then relieved.

A good serving of the authentic Swedish Meatball was surprisingly described by then as the Lion's Head. If Li Li knew that, what would he think?

If he knew that, he would probably be fatally depressed.

"What are you holding it for? Hurry up." Su Yuesheng said smilingly. She had a pair of beautiful eyes that were almost same to his brother.

"I think I might as well eat the steak." Su Mu set down the meatball on the plate and suddenly said seriously.

"Don't laugh. I don't want to eat it, really. You can try the taste by yourself." Su Mu had already recognized that Su Yuesheng was laughing at himself.

He was quite familiar with his own sister.

"I like eating it this way." Su Yuesheng snickered and then said solemnly.

"I miss Boss Yuan's obsessive-compulsive disorder. I believe only Boss Yuan makes allowances for the customers. He's a nice man." Su Mu suddenly said.

"Indeed." Looking at the abandoned meatball, Su Yuesheng said with deep feeling.

"Not until now do I understand the care and thoughts of Boss Yuan." Su Mu supported his head with one hand and leaned to the side.

"If I were you, I wouldn't eat it, too." Su Yuesheng looked at the meatball covered with the cranberry sauce and said firmly.

It appeared as if the two of them were making puzzling remarks, all about praising Yuan Zhou.

Actually, this matter was fairly easy to understand.

Originally, Su Mu felt the Swedish Meatball prepared by Yuan Zhou was totally flashy with substance like magic.

Of course, the taste was still the top-grade. No matter it was eaten alone or along with the fruit sauce, the meatball was always the best delicacy.

But there was still one point worth mentioning. Even if he didn't like the sauce, the remaining sauce wouldn't be wasted at all.

After all, some people didn't even know how to make it.

The difference of the meatballs today came from the dipping sauce.

Cranberry sauce and Swedish Meatballs were the standard match. People usually dipped the meatballs into the sauce and then ate it like that. The meatball itself had hot grease on the surface, along with the cherry red color, it was simply very ugly and made people lose all appetite.

In Yuan Zhou's hands, contrarily, the sauce was made like the film that could wrap the meatball. It looked charming and beautiful and furthermore, it greatly aroused the appetite of others.

"If we haven't eaten Boss Yuan's meatball before, I won't feel anything wrong. But now with the sticky layer of redness after dipping, I almost choked," Su Mu said with an exaggerated tone.

"It's indeed difficult to bear." Su Yuesheng nodded his head.

"This head chef isn't considerate at all to his customers." Su Mu looked at the barely touched meatball in sight and then said discontentedly.

"Perhaps, you can ask them about that, brother." Su Yuesheng suggested.

"Yes. Why not?" Su Mu nodded the head and summoned the waitress.

"Do you have the sauce alike to film?" Su Mu asked earnestly.

"Sorry, sir. We don't have such a sauce." The waitress was a little surprised. What was a film-like sauce? She totally didn't understand, but still, she answered dutifully.

It was unknown whether or not she had taken this beautiful man to be mentally disabled.

Of color, fragrance, and taste, even the primary element, color, was not as good as the meatball cooked by Yuan Zhou. Li Li failed

in that aspect!

Chapter 340: Challenge and Results

"Are you sure that you don't have it? It's an indispensable ingredient to eat the meatball with." Su Mu pointed at the meatball on the table.

"Isn't this your dipping sauce? Do you want a change of flavor or...?" The waitress didn't really understand what he meant, thus asked in puzzlement.

"No. Cranberry sauce is the standard ingredient. What I want is something that can directly wrap the meatball up after dipping." Su Mu explained a bit more to her.

"Sorry, sir. We don't have what you need right now. But you can write your opinion down and we will report it to the managerial team. When you come again next time, we'll probably have it." The waitress took out the suggestion form and put it on the table while smiling.

Having hesitating for a while, Su Mu looked at the meatball and then at the suggestion form. In the end, he took the pen and wrote a few lines of words on it.

With full confidence, Li Li was still busy working in the kitchen although he hadn't slept for a whole night. Thinking of his better Swedish Meatball, he was quite complacent.

Yuan Zhou nevertheless didn't know that somebody had been endeavoring to fight back in hopes of winning once. He only felt slight headache now.

The reason was, naturally, the two adorable girls in front of him.

Ever since the ponytail girl who liked wearing sailor suit, white shirt and pleated skirt was dressed up as Du Du and took photo with him, Yuan Zhou's restaurant enjoyed some fame in the circle of two-dimension animation.

There were many young and youthful girls who liked two-

dimension animations just like the ponytail girl did. Every time, they lined up obediently and asked weird questions without eating anything.

There were also a few adults. After all, just as the martial world was a man's romance, the comics and animation covered a lot of age groups as well.

The two girls were both animation addicts and super foodies. After they heard that Yuan Zhou was a real life Cooking Master Boy, they would naturally come to visit his restaurant. Just like now, they came twice or thrice per month.

They came at noon only while never in the evening. However, Yuan Zhou got a headache every time he saw the two girls. Now, they came again.

"Boss Yuan, where is Broth?" On the left was a big-eyed pretty girl with her hair braided in an oblique. She asked with puzzlement.

"I don't know." Yuan Zhou said cleanly with his face tight.

"Boss Yuan, have you fed Broth with the broth?" The girl on the right had a silky short hair. She looked adorable and harmless like a little animal.

"Yes, I have." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"Gee! Boss Yuan, why did you do so again? I haven't taken any photos of the dog till now." The girl whose hair was braided pouted her lips discontentedly.

"This tone is really strange." Yuan Zhou kept silent for a while and changed the subject.

"How could that be? This is my speech preference. Gee!" The girl said again with dissatisfaction.

Yuan Zhou then got speechless, not knowing what to answer.

The girl on the right interrupted, "Boss Yuan, do you live

together with Broth?"

This question was more disgusting than the speech preference. Yuan Zhou didn't want to answer that, either.

Seeing Yuan Zhou's embarrassed expression, Wu Hai and Ling Hong just watched the show. Even Manager Shi beside him was watching smilingly, not intending to help him out.

"Those two girls are truly lovable." Wu Hai stroked his mustache with an evil smile.

"Absolutely. They just love beating around the bush," Ling Hong said with a manner of solemnity.

"But it's actually not bad that we can see Boss Yuan get embarrassed." Wu Hai said with a smile.

"Of course. Only these two girls have the capabilities." Ling Hong was unable to hold himself back. He first smiled and then answered.

After all, it was so rare to see Yuan Zhou becoming speechless and getting a headache at the same time.

That's right. Every time the two girls came here, they would ask some very strange questions.

For example, "Boss Yuan, Broth doesn't seem to feel good today. Are you sad?"

Yuan Zhou was really puzzled. How could they say Broth did not feel good since it's obviously alive and kicking? Besides, why would he have to be sad?

"Boss Yuan, Boss Yuan, a pretty woman wants to embrace Broth. Go, go to stop her." While talking, the two girls both revealed a manner of anxiety.

The other one even asked him directly, "Boss Yuan, will you be jealous?"

Such odd questions made Yuan Zhou quite speechless. Broth was

merely a dog. What did it have anything to do with him whether it was good or not?

Therefore, in most cases, Yuan Zhou would rather stay in the kitchen whenever he saw them come. He just left the main hall to Zhou Jia alone.

Occasionally, he could hear them discuss something that he didn't understand.

The two girls discussed heatedly and happily.

Long after that, Yuan Zhou got to know there was a group of girls called Fujoshi, who acted similar to the two girls.

Of course, Yuan Zhou still didn't understand why the two girls liked to ask about Broth and him so much.

After the business time ended, Yuan Zhou shut the door and directly went upstairs, preparing to read for a while.

This was the mission from which he managed to get an extra reward. Yuan Zhou was fairly active on that. As for the main mission, Yuan Zhou hadn't got any clue about it temporarily. He might be able to think of one as time went by.

Seated on the chair, Yuan Zhou took the book with one hand and a can of walnut milk with the other, preparing to open it with one hand.

"A man who can open the can with one single hand is said to be Prince Charming." Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of a sentence on Meng Meng's microblog. Inspired by that, he prepared to open the can with one hand.

He clasped the pull ring of the can neatly with the finger and the can body with the remaining fingers. Then he pulled the ring forcibly and the can was opened after a sound of "Pa".

"As expected, I'm the Prince Charming." Yuan Zhou looked at the walnut milk in the hand contentedly.

Yuan Zhou was fully satisfied with every aspect of himself. However, Li Li was quite different, as he was reading the suggestion form in his hand.

On the first page, it was Su Yuesheng's suggestion, "If it's the Lion's Head, it's really not bad."

"Don't you know what dishes you have ordered?" Li Li knitted his brows and said discontentedly.

Right following that was Su Mu's suggestion, "It was originally good. After all, they are all meatballs. However, once they are dipped in sauce, they severely affect my appetite."

Opinion first and then was the suggestion, "I suggest the head chef learn something from Boss Yuan."

"That flashy method?" There was full of sarcasm in Li Li's tone.

After that, however, there were all suggestions about the Swedish Meatball apart from some favorable comments.

Similar to the first time, there appeared a severe difference in opinions.

What appeared most therein were the two words of Boss Yuan.

"Is there really a problem?" Li Li was a little puzzled. He leaned against the chair support and began to consider carefully.

He thought back of the plate presentation and taste when he ate the meatball.

In an instant of inspiration, Li Li grasped the answer to that question.

"Is it because of the sauce?" Li Li stood up immediately.

Ha paced back and forth and patted on the suggestion form on the table, shouting, "Yuan Zhou, you set me up."

Yes. Li Li instantly understood the meaning of the mechanism that Yuan Zhou designed.

When the meatball was dipped into the thick sauce, the fruit particles would be attached on it and also the bright red sauce. From the appearance, it really wouldn't give people a good appetite.

The matter itself wasn't so serious. After all, most customers cared little about that. What they cared more was the good taste and pretty shape rather than the trifles.

As a perfectionist, however, Yuan Zhou wasn't able to bear the flaws. He managed to negotiate with the system and make such an intricate mechanism. This idea came from the Yuanyang Pot in ancient times.

Yuan Zhou perfectly solved the aesthetic problem of the meatball with sauce while Li Li didn't even find the problem.

Having made comparisons between Yuan Zhou's meatball and Li Li's, those who didn't mind nor find the problem all found the aesthetic problem of the dipping sauce.

As the saying goes, if the pearls and jades came prior, what came after was either the dazzling diamond or something much more inferior.

Tragically, Li Li's meatball became the inferior one by comparison.

This story told us that one had to be humble and modest. Otherwise, one would be struck by lightning.

Chapter 341: Persistence in the Name

The business time during noon passed very soon. Yuan Zhou divided his personal time in the afternoon into two parts, one for reading the books bought today and the other for perfecting the craftsmanship of the new dish according to his habits.

Time passed quickly under Yuan Zhou's arrangement.

Dinner time passed soon, too. Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief of "Hu" and sat down for a break.

"Hello, boss." Shen Min said lightly when she came inside and saw Yuan Zhou looking tired.

"Um. Go get it ready." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Ok, boss." Shen Min carried her backpack and nodded her head obediently.

"Zi". After a light sound, Shen Min opened the sergestes door. Having thought for a while, she couldn't help but turn around and say, "Boss, I can close the door by myself. You can go rest."

"Um?" Yuan Zhou felt a little strange.

Shen Min had always been afraid of him and only spoke with him about work. It was the first time she showed some care for him.

"But if you don't feel good, you can watch. Anyway, please get more rest." Shen Min was a little flustered by Yuan Zhou's serious gaze and hurriedly added. After that, she lowered her head.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou nodded the head.

"You are welcome. I'm going to prepare, boss." Shen Min was a little embarrassed. She ran away after she finished saying that.

"Really a little girl." While looking at Shen Min who was quickly running away, Yuan Zhou smiled. It was fairly pleasant to be cared about by his own staff.

As for Shen Min, she just felt embarrassed, but didn't regret it.

After she started working here, the working hours were short and the work was easy. Besides that, she was allowed to do her homework here. If she was unable to go back, she would likewise be sent back safely. All these little things were remembered in her heart.

Therefore, she always worked dutifully and believed that Boss Yuan was the best boss.

Moreover, she became happier when she thought of Yuan Zhou's gratitude just now.

Nothing could make one happier when their own concern was accepted.

"Sha Sha Sha", Shen Min took up the broom and swept the fallen leaves of the bamboos to one side.

"These bamboos really grow healthily. Seldom do their leaves fall." While sweeping, Shen Min looked at the green bamboos and muttered.

The work of sweeping the fallen leaves started from this week.

Although the bamboo leaves provided by the system do not wilt, the leaves of the plants bought by Yuan Zhou would turn yellow and scatter. Therefore, Shen Min had another job to do.

However, even if there were some yellow fallen leaves, they didn't affect the beauty of this place.

Some slightly yellow leaves were scattered among the green leaves, which contrarily brought multiple scenery to this platform, like the transition of life from the old to the new.

"Yo. Hello, Uncle Yuan." Ling Hong was wearing a white shirt with standing collar, a ripped jeans and a pair of pure white sneakers. Along with his handsome appearance, he looked quite youthful like a college student.

"Ling Hong, you are 28 this year, not 18." Yuan Zhou kept silent for a while and said suddenly.

"Haw-haw. Remember, I once said you were just pretending to be young. At that time, you was still reluctant to admit that. Huh, 28-year-old man?" Wu Hai followed him into the restaurant and laughed at Ling Hong unreservedly.

"But he really looks young." Right after him was another person, whose voice was as clear as limpid spring. Besides that, he looked quite spirited and good-looking.

Of the three people, only this one looked the most normal. Anyway, Yuan Zhou thought that way.

"I think Uncle Yuan is jealous of me. After all, you look so... You know what I'm saying." Ling Hong ridiculed.

"I'm only 24 this year. It's the best age of a Prince Charming." Yuan Zhou said without any hesitation.

"You once said I pretended to be young. But I think this guy deserves the accusation more. How dare he says he's only 24?" After Yuan Zhou said that, Ling Hong immediately said to Wu Hai while pointing at Yuan Zhou.

"Cough cough cough. But Boss Yuan is really 24 years old." Wu Hai was unable to smile as he happened to know that Yuan Zhou was truly 24.

Right after that, however, he added, "Similar to me, he's a young talent," Wu Hai said proudly.

"Tsk, tsk. You are really shameless." Ling Hong didn't believe him at all. He stroked his own collar and said with distaste.

"Is this Yuan Zhou's restaurant?" A sweet female voice sounded as a tall and slender figure walked inside.

"The name of this restaurant is Master Chef Restaurant." Yuan Zhou corrected her earnestly.

"Sorry, I got it wrong. I was told the address by Jiang Changxi," the woman smiled and explained.

"Don't hear him bullshit. It's also called Yuan Zhou's restaurant." Ling Hong was always into pretty girls, therefore he volunteered to help.

Of course, he didn't forget to tidy his hair.

"This brat must have evil designs." Wu Hai remained unmoved and muttered to himself.

Yuan Zhou nodded his head and had the same feeling.

However, the good-looking man beside him just smiled. He looked fairly clean and natural.

"That's wonderful. When does business hours commence?" The pretty woman asked smilingly.

"Ten minutes later. This is Compass and he is extremely punctual. Do you know Jiang Changxi?" Ling Hong suddenly remembered her words and asked curiously.

"You can call me Lin Xiu, a friend of Changxi," Lin Xiu said gracefully.

"Never did I expect that Jiang Changxi would have such an excellent friend like you." Ling Hong answered, feeling disbelief.

"Changxi is also very good." Lin Xiu said smilingly.

"If I'm not good, do you think I will treat you to the liquor?" The voice of Jiang Changxi came from outside the door.

"Yes, of course, it's true. You are the best. Thank you." Lin Xiu went up smilingly.

Two women always had an endless amount to talk about. Ling Hong could no longer break in and thus had to stand back.

It was lucky that Shen Min came to lead them upstairs at that time.

"The name of the store is Master Chef Restaurant." Just when they were walking into the pub, Yuan Zhou said after them faintly.

"Ok. I got it." Lin Xiu turned her head naturally and nodded, saying that.

"Um." Only then did Yuan Zhou nod.

"Sometimes, Boss Yuan is really persistent." Ling Hong shrugged and then said to the Wu Hai.

"As always." Wu Hai said, not feeling it strange at all.

Ling Hong didn't bring other people to come to drink. When he came to drink, he would consciously sit together with Wu Hai.

Of course, it was because Jiang Changxi was way too awesome. Otherwise, he would rather sit together with that cute and pretty woman.

"It's not your agent. Who's he?" Only then did Ling Hong react as he still didn't know whom Wu Hai had brought with him.

"This is my friend. We paint together. He's Qin Yu." Wu Hai pointed at the man who was sitting beside him and said.

Hearing his own name, Qin Yu raised the head and nodded to Ling Hong as a greeting. Then he continued to eat the Drunkard's Peanut. He stuffed them into the mouth one by one, chewed, and swallowed it slowly and carefully. His actions were extremely slow and even the gesture of holding the chopsticks were rather elegant.

"You look really clean." Ling Hong looked at Qin Yu carefully and earnestly for a while and said that.

"You'll never imagine how much this guy likes cleanliness. You can't even find a hair in the place where he lives." Wu Hai complained.

"Tsk-tsk. A man who likes cleanliness must have got a girlfriend, right?" It was the only possibility that Ling Hong could think of.

"No, he doesn't. But if his room is clean and tidy without any

peculiar smell, he must either be a ladyboy or a gay." Wu Hai suddenly said.

"I feel your agent is more like that." Ling Hong retorted immediately on thinking of Zheng Jiawei.

"Zheng jiawei is quite manly." Wu Hai shook his head and denied.

"Couldn't you talk about me when I'm not here?" Qin Yu set down his chopsticks and said helplessly.

"Don't you mind?" Ling Hong asked curiously. He had thought this person would lose his temper.

Qin Yu shook the head, saying, "No, I don't. I have gotten used to it."

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Chapter 342: A Strange Contest

"What do you mean? You really are?" Ling Hong asked curiously.

"Yes." Qin Yu nodded his head.

"Ok. Great." Instead of having any special reactions, he just nodded his head, indicating that he understood.

"It seems that I'm the smart guy," Wu Hai said complacently.

When Qin Yu found the two people had no special reaction, he lowered his head and continued to eat the peanuts.

"Did you eat secretly while we were talking?" When Wu Hai stopped gloating, he found there was only half a plate of peanuts left and hence asked loudly.

"No. I was just curious about Zheng Jiawei." Qin Yu didn't stop picking and eating the peanuts when he asked without turning a hair.

"Speaking of which, I'm also curious." Ling Hong also looked at Wu Hai curiously.

"Slurp slurp" Just when Ling Hong turned his head, Wu Hai picked one peanut up and stuffed it into his mouth.

It was really a good opportunity. Ling Hong didn't even manage to react.

Having eaten the peanut, Wu Hai became content. After all, food that was stolen tasted better. It was the truth.

"My sister once went hiking with him. On the way there, both of them lost their phones and money." Wu Hai appeared fairly earnest when he talked about this matter.

"Then Zheng Jiawei brought your sister back?" Ling Hong speculated.

"Yes. He brought her back in a way that hurt him a lot." After a

nod, Wu Hai continued saying.

"Wu Lin was wounded in the leg. He carried her for two days until they got out of that mountainous area, where one would usually spend at least 3 days to walk out alone." Wu Hai drank a mouthful of liquor.

"When they came back, his feet were severely wounded and badly mutilated. Therefore, he stumbles while walking even now. It was the consequence of great pain."

"This person is quite manly. Otherwise, I wouldn't agree for my sister to get along with him." Wu Hai actually had tender love for his sister.

"Never did I expect that guy to be so persevering." Ling Hong nodded his head and showed great admiration.

"He is dutiful, reliable and ready to shoulder responsibility." Qin Yu summarized decisively. This time, Wu Hai didn't say anything but nodded his head quietly.

The two women who were chatting at the side also heard the conversation; however, they didn't express any of their opinions.

The silence only stayed for a little while before the chatting continued.

While taking good rest in the restaurant, Yuan Zhou was reading the newly-bought books.

He planned to finish at least 1/3 of the books before he started to use the 100 Ways to Make Mantous rewarded by the system. This was the target that Yuan Zhou set for himself.

"Ling Ling Ling, Ling Ling Ling". The phone suddenly rang. Instead of answering it immediately, Yuan Zhou first finished the chapter and made a note. Only then did he pick up the phone.

"Hello." Yuan Zhou answered the phone.

"Hello, Mr. Yuan. I'm Yan Jia, the assistant of Mr. Lee Yanyi."

The person at the other end of the phone first made himself known.

"Um." Yuan Zhou nodded his head habitually. Only later did he become stupefied for a moment before he reacted and answered with an "Um".

"Mr. Yuan, what are your thoughts on that contest?" Yan Jia got straight to the point once he spoke.

"What kind of ingredients are you going to provide?" Yuan Zhou was fairly curious about that.

That's right. Lee Yanyi recommended Yuan Zhou to take part in an internal contest among the chefs.

The content of the contest was quite interesting. It wasn't the common cooking, but an examination on their knowledge of food ingredients.

Namely, the origin, the year of production, use and taste of the raw ingredients of different dishes.

"1/3 of them are the commonly-seen ingredients in the market while the other 1/3 are those that are not often used. And the remaining ingredients are the kind that are precious and scarce." Yan Jia made an introduction.

"Ok. I'll go." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and agreed.

"Alright. I'm not going to bother you anymore. Good night," Yan Jia said courteously.

"Um. I will be there on time." Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou added.

"Ok, Mr. Yuan. Do you need me to send you the address and contest matters by mail or email?" Yan Jia inquired.

"By mail, please." Yuan Zhou was always terrible with the high-tech electronic products, thus he chose the mailing method decisively.

"The mail will arrive at your end tomorrow. Please check and receive it." Yan Jia calculated the time and reminded him warmly.

"Um." Yuan Zhou answered lightly and spoke no more.

Then Yan Jia hung off the phone timely.

"An interesting contest." Yuan Zhou looked at the phone and said with interest.

When Yan Jia called him for this matter the first time, Yuan Zhou didn't agree to it immediately.

According to Yuan Zhou's theory, "I'm such a learned and elegant man and must be reserved. Even if I'm interested in that, I can't appear to reveal it."

The reason why Yuan Zhou promised to join the contest was that he wanted to check if there were any differences between the ingredients provided in the contest and those provided by the system.

How large the difference was mattered a lot to Yuan Zhou.

"Making a cart behind closed doors isn't likely to work all the time. I ought to check around for other chefs' craftsmanship." Stroking his forehead, Yuan Zhou was thinking of the matter of the contest.

"Ding Ling Ling". The phone rang again.

The two characters of Sun Ming flashed constantly on the screen of his phone.

"What's the matter?" Once the phone was put through, Yuan Zhou asked unreservedly.

"You answered the phone so quickly today." Taking the phone, Sun Ming ridiculed smilingly.

"Tell me what it is." Yuan Zhou knew his own brother quite well.

"Can't I call you when I'm free? What about you treat me to

dinner?" Once he opened the mouth, Sun Ming talked about eating, eating and eating, which conformed to his identity of a foodie.

"No problem. Let's eat in the neighboring restaurant." Yuan Zhou agreed readily.

"Why are you so abnormal today? You don't have a plot, Compass, right?" Sun Ming had never seen such a moment when Yuan Zhou was so easy-going.

"No, I don't. I am treating you to dinner and you pay the bill," Yuan Zhou said calmly.

"Just as expected, you truly want to cheat me." There was some understanding in the tone of Sun Ming.

"Their dishes are much cheaper than mine." Yuan Zhou added with a low voice.

"No dishes are more expensive than yours," Sun Min complained.

Indeed. Dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant were absolutely well-known for their very high price. Therefore, even if so many customers came for meals everyday, those small restaurants didn't have any intention of poaching his customers and competing with him."

After all, who would make a comparison between a tiny restaurant and a five-star hotel, not to mention that the existence of Yuan Zhou's restaurant brought a large crowd of customers.

As a result, even the business of those tiny restaurants got better by 20%. Therefore, the bosses of those businesses were only too anxious in hoping that Yuan Zhou's restaurant remained like that.

"There is a newly-opened restaurant. It's fairly famous and quite expensive." Yuan Zhou thought of the prices to be more or less the same as his and uttered an adjective of "quite expensive".

Yuan Zhou had always believed that his price was economical

and practical. Of course, it was based on his food ingredients.

"No, I don't want to go. I have a serious matter," Sun Min refused flatly.

He would rather save some good money and go to eat something more delicious in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Since Yuan Zhou has such a good cooking craftsmanship, why would I go to other places to eat?" Sun Ming was always so frank and straightforward.

"Ok. What is it?" Yuan Zhou didn't insist. He had just been a little curious.

"Do you go out to cook for others? The labor cost is 5000 RMB per table and there are a total of ten tables." Sun Ming asked directly.

"Your friend? How is your relationship?" Yuan Zhou didn't give an answer directly, but asked that way.

"A friend in my Weixin group. I'm not familiar with him, but he is rich." Sun Ming answered.

"No, I don't." Yuan Zhou refused flatly.

"Alright. I have already anticipated this result." Sun Ming likewise guessed the answer. It's just that this friend asked him. He felt that it was not complicated to make a call and hence inquired.

"Um." Yuan Zhou answered and then hung off the phone.

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Chapter 343: The First Crisis of Yuan Zhou's Restaurant

While Yuan Zhou was preparing to attend an interesting contest, Li Li was thinking about his own failure in his restaurant.

"That guy looks young, but his craftsmanship is very good indeed. However, I'm not inferior to him, either." While tapping on the suggestion forms on the table, Li Li was thinking of the best method slowly in his mind.

He was not likely to be defeated by others all the time, which didn't conform to his temperament as well.

"Stupid, stupid, stupid". Li Li suddenly cursed himself continuously for three times and then knocked his head with his hand.

"Sure enough, I wasn't calm at all. Why did I compete against him in the areas where I'm not good at?" Li Li felt it to be a little funny when he recalled what he had done for the past few days.

He might be right. Li Li was a senior western food chef recognized worldwide, and he was good at steak rather than these dishes. As long as the customers ordered the steak, they all praised Li Li.

Having straightened out his thinking, Li Li instantly felt better and hence selectively neglected the possibility of Yuan Zhou also serving steak.

"Beef Wellington is a nice option." Li Li remembered this famous dish in Britain.

That's right. This dish came from Britain and was also a famous dish. It was quite well-known by people and the cooking method was also very elegant. It was considered to be a rare normal dish.

Compared with the Black Chocolate Roasted Eggplant, this dish

sounded much more normal.

This dish was also what Li Li was good at. Of course, he had learned to cook this famous British dish in France.

After he decided on the dish, Li Li instantly became much more relaxed. He took off his chef uniform and went home.

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Early next morning, Yuan Zhou got up for jogging as usual and then came back to cook noodles. After he finished the breakfast, he carried the remaining broth to Broth and afterwards, prepared the food ingredients for breakfast.

The business time for breakfast was still same as before. The restaurant was always crowded with so many people. After all, 100 servings was really not a lot.

Lunch time was also same as usual. Two hours later, Yuan Zhou stood up and announced, "I'm sorry. Lunch time has ended now. Please come earlier tomorrow."

Such words had been repeated for many times in the past few months, therefore Yuan Zhou said them quite deftly.

Those customers in the line would soon disperse although they often complained discontentedly during normal times. However, it was Saturday today and they didn't disperse as usual, but instead, gathered together. That made Yuan Zhou slightly puzzled.

"Liu Chen, do as what we have agreed on. This time, we must let Boss Yuan give us an explanation." A man who was dressed in sportswear and had been to Yuan Zhou's restaurant for several times said to the other man ahead who appeared to be the headman.

"Everybody, please calm down. Let me get this thing clear." Dressed in the business suits, Liu Chen looked rather peaceful. He was wearing rimless glasses and appeared cultured. But once he talked, he directly silenced them immediately.

"My boss said that business hours for today have ended. Everybody, please leave." When Shen Min found they didn't seem to be leaving, she went up and said.

"Don't worry, little girl. We have something to tell Boss Yuan. It's beyond your reach." With a mild tone, Liu Chen drove Shen Min away firmly.

"What's the matter, guys?" Yuan Zhou frowned and asked.

Standing behind the long curved table, Yuan Zhou was directly facing the dozen of people led by Liu Chen in the restaurant. His aura was no less than that of these complaining foodies.

Well, that also included the crowd outside the restaurant. Some just watched the bustling scene while others were gathered together to riot.

These people must have prepared very well as they were all holding the banners in their hands.

Written on the banners were the following words, "Against unfair dining treatment. Strongly request fair queuing."

As soon as they gather together, they attracted many people to watch.

While more and more people gathered and some even declared excitedly to resist Yuan Zhou's restaurant, Yuan Zhou's neighbor, Boss Tong, couldn't bear it anymore.

"How can you guys do this shameless thing? Little Yuan has only two arms and naturally is unable to entertain all of you guys. Please be reasonable." Boss Tong shouted.

"We don't mean that, but just want to talk to Boss Yuan." An organized and disciplined person who was holding the banner answered with a calm tone.

"Then why do you guys organize so many people to gather here?" Boss Tong pointed at the crowds that almost blocked half of the

street discontentedly.

"Don't worry. We just want to eat more of Boss Yuan's dishes and wouldn't go overboard." A girl turned her head mischievously and answered smilingly.

"I really can't understand the young now. They caused such a big chaos just for something to eat." Seeing them finish talking, Boss Tong explained on her own to the people beside her why she did so.

Then she spoke no more.

The granny who sold steamed buns and soybean milk every morning around here also persuaded both sides.

Just in a little while, the personnel of the Street Administration Office came over when they saw such a big chaos. However, the entrance of Yuan Zhou's restaurant was thoroughly blocked and nobody could get inside, including Wu Hai and Ling Hong who returned instantly.

"Whoops! What are you doing here? I'm from the Street Administration Office. Please make way for me. What do you want to do by crowding at the door?" Director Wu tried to squeeze themselves in Yuan Zhou's restaurant along with his assistant, but still failed after quite a while. She took a step back and said loudly.

"Yeah. You can't do this. What if you guys block the whole street?" The young assistant also turned red due to the anxiety.

"This is a personal affair between Boss Yuan and us." The crowds refused with a tough attitude.

"Here's the thing. If something happens to Boss Yuan, you are committing a crime. Calm down, everybody. Anything could be negotiated peacefully." Director Wu was an experienced staff. She first said something that sounded serious and then something else.

"We won't hurt Boss Yuan," the crowd said earnestly.

"If so, please make a way for us. Let me get inside and have a look. Maybe I can be of some help." Director Wu said immediately.

"Yeah. This restaurant is under our administration. If there's any misunderstanding, we will surely provide help." The assistant also nodded her head continuously and said that.

"Boss Liu has given us the instructions. No one could get inside until the matter is solved. He hasn't made a call to us." A person who was crowding at the door waved his phone and then said.

"What exactly are you crowding here for? I remember that you have been here for several times to eat meals." Stroking his mustaches, Wu Hai frowned and said.

He didn't actually worry about Yuan Zhou's security. After all, these people looked to have deep grudges, but they didn't do anything immoderate and furthermore, helped to explain to others that watched the scene.

"Humph." Unexpectedly, these people who had a resolute but mild attitude directly gave Wu Hai the cold shoulder, not intending to answer him.

"Haw-haw. It's definitely because you are too ugly that they don't want to answer you." The originally serious tension was disturbed by the interlude. Ling Hong instantly burst into laughter.

Wu Hai completely disregarded Ling Hong. Nonetheless, wherever he looked, the people under his gaze would turn their heads away and not intend to answer him.

Ling Hong made eyes at Wu Hai, indicating "Watch me". After that, he walked straightway to a girl.

"Hi, beauty. Look, it's so hot. Shall I buy you some drinks?" Ling Hong believed that he himself knew something about girls.

He was so handsome and so rich. Normally, he would at most be refused politely.

However, the girl who was holding a banner just answered bluntly, "The way you chat up girls is already out of fashion. It's too old."

This time, it was Wu Hai's turn to mock at Ling Hong.

Before he finished smiling, there suddenly came a voice from the other side, "The police are coming..."

Chapter 344: Cause of the Crisis

"Damn it. The police are here. Brother Jun, I am a little scared." A tall man said to the man who had always been answering Director Wang.

"Me, too. Brother Jun, what shall we do?" Another person crowding at the door panicked a little, too.

"What shall we say if the police come?" More people followed. It was another one who was scared.

"You guys, please make way for us. Things would not be good if the police arrive later," Director Wang said in a threatening manner.

"That's right. The police will be here in no time." The young assistant revealed a manner of intimidation.

After that, even Brother Jun didn't react and fell silent.

"What are you afraid of? We didn't commit any crimes. Remember our purpose." It was the girl who was chatted up by Ling Hong that said firmly.

"Oh, right. I was scared just now." The man who first got scared instantly reacted and touched his head, feeling embarrassed.

"She's right. Don't be scared. Let me talk to them if the police come," Brother Jun said earnestly while looking at the several people.

They managed to calm down soon, but Director Wu was not happy.

"It's a crime for your guys to crowd like that and affect Boss Yuan's business." Director Wu was a little exasperated. She pointed at the people who crowded at the door and said that.

"No, it's not like that, aunt. It is Boss Yuan's resting time now. We came to ask Boss Yuan about something. If you want to go

inside, please line up." The girl said to Director Wu unhurriedly.

"You don't seem to be asking something, but causing trouble." The young assistant volunteered to say.

"Boss Yuan plays by rules best and adheres to sequence. It is a must, right, Brother Wu Hai?" The young girl conveyed something more than words.

"Of course. He's Compass." Wu Hai cared little about that and just nodded his head straightforwardly.

"So please, aunt." The girl said smilingly.

"Sigh. Kids nowadays are really capricious." Director Wu was quite helpless. However, she didn't leave right away but waited there for the police.

Occasionally, she craned her neck to look into Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"What do you think is the situation?" Ling Hong turned his head and asked Wu Hai.

"I don't know. But Boss Yuan is supposed to be alright." Wu Hai shrugged and said calmly while stroking his mustache.

"How do you know that?" Ling Hong was slightly curious.

"Look! Broth is so calm and is still cheating for food and drink." Wu Hai said while pointing at the dog Broth who was acting cute at the side.

"Er... It's merely a dog." Ling Hong was speechless.

"But it's a devoted dog." Wu Hai said affirmatively.

While the two of them were chatting over here, the policemen that were ordered to come became a little speechless.

"What are so many of you gathering here for?" A policeman went up and shouted loudly to the crowds.

Although they were inquiring the crowds gravely, they didn't

stay too close to them. After all, the notification that he received was that some people gathered a crowd and caused a disturbance. Once they came, they nevertheless found there were as many as a few hundred people. They were just two ordinary policemen and of course they had to be cautious.

Another young policeman started to pacify the crowd peacefully, "Everybody, please calm down and tell me what exactly is the problem. Then we can figure out how to deal with it."

"Who called the police? Please come out to give your details." The policeman who shouted first uttered again.

"Nothing important. We are just here waiting for meals." Once the police came, they put down the banner and said mildly.

Seeing nobody cause disturbance and all have a good mood, the two policemen became rest assured. What a joke! If all hundreds of people caused a disturbance, how could they keep it under control?

"It's me. I called the police." A woman who opened a noodle restaurant at the neighboring place said loudly.

"Ok. Come here to give your details." The policeman walked into the crowd carefully and waved to her, saying that.

"Alright. I'll be there right away." The woman wiped her hands on her apron nervously and then came over.

As soon as she spoke, she didn't say anything favorable about Yuan Zhou.

"In my opinion, Boss Yuan, namely the boss of the restaurant that was blocked, has definitely cheated people." The woman had always been jealous of Yuan Zhou's business. Now that she got this rare opportunity, she would naturally seize it.

"Tell us something about you and then why you called the police." The young policeman didn't say much, but just spoke according to due procedures.

"I'm the boss of this noodle restaurant. Once I found the restaurant was suddenly blocked just now and these people were causing a great disturbance, I called the police." The woman wiped her hands and reported nervously.

"Good. Thank you for your cooperation." The young policeman took note carefully and then signaled her to go back.

"Officer Ma, what do you think we should do?" The young policeman handed the notebook to the other one beside him.

"Who is in charge here? Come out, please." After Officer Ma read the note, he shouted decidedly.

"Coming, coming. What's the matter?" Brother Jun kept his word as expected. Once the policeman called, he stood out.

"Tell us what you are doing here." Officer Ma looked at Brother Jun with a serious expression.

"You misunderstood us. We are all here lining up to ask Boss Yuan about something." Brother Jun grinned and said calmly.

"Do you need so many people to gather here to ask something?" Officer Ma didn't believe them at all.

"You can ask others by yourself if you don't believe me. This Boss Yuan cooks very nice dishes. People lining up for meals here every day are way more than these people." Brother Jun pointed at the crowd smilingly.

Brother Jun spoke very loudly. Others nearby who heard that started to discuss immediately.

"The boss has really good craftsmanship. The only problem is that the line is too long every day." Those who had eaten that before said, as if savoring the aftertaste.

"The price is too expensive. If they could be cheaper, I can also take it as my personal canteen." This was a customer who rarely ate here.

"Come on. Boss Yuan's craftsmanship is worth more than the current price. Look at the neighboring western food restaurant. The so-called Swedish Meatball is cooked the same as the Lion's Head." While speaking, this man pointed to the western food restaurant of Li Li.

It was the legendary being insulted without doing anything.

When Officer Ma heard them talking, he also felt that they did not seem to be causing a disturbance.

"Then you guys better disperse. What does it look like with so many people gathering together?" Office Ma looked around at the crowd and found there was indeed no rage nor evil intentions, but more of grudges.

It looked more like the state when they were hungry.

"Don't worry. We'll disperse within 10 minutes. We will just stay here a little longer as there are only a few workers in Boss Yuan's restaurant." Brother Jun said earnestly with a smile on his face.

"We'll stay here for another 10 minutes until you leave. You'd better disperse as soon as possible." Office Ma directly made the decision.

"Ok, no problem. Sorry to bother the two officers. Here are two bottles of mineral water. Drink some water, please. It's too hot." Brother Jun handed them two bottles of water timely.

"No need. Go handle your problem quickly and then leave." Office Ma refused solemnly.

"I'm going now." Brother Jun didn't insist anymore. He put the water away and then turned around and leave.

Director Wu, her assistant, Wu Hai and Ling Hong were nevertheless surrounded in the center of the crowd and couldn't leave. The key point was that Brother Jun had said that causing disturbance would do no good to Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Besides that, he said that he would let these people go inside after he dealt

with the police.

That was the very reason why the several people would rather stay and Brother Jun persuaded the police so easily.

Of course, the police weren't stupid. They didn't believe in Brother Jun's words thoroughly and hence waited at the side. They had reported the situation here back to the police station. If anything went wrong, they could still ask for support.

"Brother Liu, I have everything ready. We have 10 minutes. Please hurry up." Brother Jun turned around and sent an SMS.

Yes. That was arranged by Liu Chen. He asked Brother Jun to do that after he heard about the situation. That way, it wouldn't cause their plans to go away and could still pass the police inspection.

In Yuan Zhou's restaurant, however, a strange contest was taking place...

Chapter 345: A New Way to Line Up

Yuan Zhou had no idea of what was happening outside his restaurant. Liu Chen, on the other hand, let out a sigh of relief. It was good to have 10 minutes to solve the problem.

"Boss Yuan, I think you should know why we are here today." Liu Chen said earnestly with a serious expression.

"No, I don't. Please tell me." Yuan Zhou answered earnestly, too.

"Cough cough cough. Then let me tell you something first." Liu Chen choked slightly. He managed to calm down and then said.

"Um, please." With a nod, Yuan Zhou indicated that he was listening.

The attitude of Yuan Zhou made the people behind feel relaxed. As long as he would like to listen, there would naturally be methods to solve the problem.

"Things are like this. Boss Yuan, the business time of your restaurant is only 6 hours every day. Breakfast takes up one hour, about which I have nothing to say." Liu Chen first let go of the breakfast time generously and then continued saying.

"Two hours at noon and three hours in the evening. Every time, the meal commences the previous second before the restaurant is opened. The daily business time is quite fixed and is never short." Liu Chen knew much about the sequence of negotiation. First, give compliments and then, problems.

"Thanks for your compliment." Yuan Zhou didn't actually recognize that was a compliment, but he still thanked him politely.

"You are welcome. But Boss Yuan, have you ever considered the situation? We come to line up every day and we, at the latter part of the line, don't know how long it will take for one person to finish their meal. After waiting for several hours, we are told that your business time has ended. Do you think it good?" Liu Chen's

words were quite inducing. He first let Yuan Zhou himself feel bad. Only in that way could this matter be taken seriously.

Resourceful as Yuan Zhou was, however, he had already seen through all his intention. He nodded his head and then said, "You are right. What then?"

"So Boss Yuan, you also agree with me. So what's your solution to this problem?" Liu Chen was surprised at Yuan Zhou's frankness and only asked after he paused a little while.

"I'm waiting for you to tell me." Yuan Zhou straightened up and revealed a manner of carefully listening.

"Er..." Even Liu Chen, this eloquent person, became slightly dumbfounded.

"Here's the thing. We, including the people outside, are all that couldn't manage to have meals after lining up for many times. However, Wu Hai can have meals here every time as he lives really near." When he spoke of Wu Hai, Liu Chen gnashed the teeth in anger.

"That would be unfair to us and moreover affect your business." Liu Chen said in summary.

"But that's out of the control of my boss," Shen Min stepped forward and said.

Once she said that, the people including Liu Chen and Yuan Zhou all looked at Shen Min.

She was a little nervous, but still calmed down and said, "You might not know, but in this store we don't know much about cooking and can't help Boss Yuan in this restaurant. All the work are done by my boss alone."

"In order to make the best dishes, even the work of washing the vegetables is done by my boss himself. Although the business time is only 6 hours, my boss is either practicing sculpting or cooking dishes every time I arrive and see him. Or else, he is reading books

on cooked wheaten products."

"My boss gets up at 5:30 every morning and sleeps at 12:00 midnight. He keeps working all day except the five hours when he is asleep."

After the long paragraph, Shen Min let out a breath and became more and more natural. In the end, she said in summary, "So my boss is really really hard-working."

After Shen Min said that, Liu Chen was lost in silence. He knew that being a chef was quite laborious, but never had he expected it to be so tough.

Therefore, Liu Chen and others intended to give up at that moment, thinking that they might be overdoing it.

Being a chef was indeed laborious, but Yuan Zhou had already gotten used to the busy life. Contrarily, he felt that such life was rather fulfilling. Looking at people come and go every day in his restaurant, he felt every customer was quite interesting.

At that moment, however, Yuan Zhou didn't think they were overdoing it. He was inquiring the system as it was really a good chance for blackmailing.

"System, I think you should be responsible for this problem."

"I think you should offer a solution. After all, all the missions you released before are about fame and reputation. What about enlarging the restaurant?" Yuan Zhou proposed lightly.

The system displayed, "Host, you are unqualified to do that due to your low level."

"Then why not offer more seats? Look, you can actually add another table for four over there or you can change that table for two into one for four?" Yuan Zhou looked at the narrow place in the restaurant.

The system displayed, "Host, you can't do that until you reach the required level."

"Then this is your problem now. My advice is the best in solving the problem." Yuan Zhou shrugged dumbly.

The system displayed, "Considering that you are working hard to level up, a queuing machine is hereby rewarded."

"Haw, what do you mean?" Yuan Zhou got a little surprised.

If the system offered the machine now, where did it put the reward? If it appeared from nowhere, Yuan Zhou was unlikely to be able to tell others that his part-time job was a magician.

"Where would the reward be?" Yuan Zhou asked nervously.

After a while, the system displayed, "The reward has been released. Please go to the first floor of the pub to check."

"I feel that you intentionally did that." Yuan Zhou was quite suspicious.

The system displayed, "The functions of the queuing machine are available for checking."

The system didn't answer Yuan Zhou's suspicion, but changed a subject.

"You always maintain silence regarding my questions. Forget it. I'm a magnanimous man and decide to forgive you. Let me check the queuing machine now." Yuan Zhou didn't want to offend the system at this time. After all, it wasn't a delusion when he was fooled by the system.

[Special reward] A Queuing Machine (already received)

(Reward tip: Now that the queuing machine is here, customers no longer need to worry about waiting in vain. It has surpassed the performance of the same machine in the bank. It deserves to be owned.)

"Actually, I have a question. System, I hope you can answer me."

Yuan Zhou suddenly revealed a serious expression and asked in mind.

The system displayed, "Please ask."

"Is the reward tip invented by you every time? It is way too funny." Yuan Zhou stared at the tip speechlessly.

The system displayed, "This is originally in the system."

"Really a wonderful answer." While reading the manual, Yuan Zhou said that earnestly.

"Boss Yuan, Boss Yuan. I'm sorry, but we still need to figure out a solution." Although Liu Chen was touched by Yuan Zhou's hard-work, he was still reluctant to give up the delicious dishes.

It was because of Yuan Zhou's seriousness that could make these foodies so persistent.

"Um. The solution has been figured out. Tomorrow it will be put into use." Yuan Zhou revealed a calm expression as if he had already worked out a solution.

"Really? Great!" The people behind Liu Chen all cheered with one accord.

"Um. Tomorrow, the function of queuing will be put to use. By then you can clearly know if you can dine on that day," Yuan Zhou gave a brief introduction.

"How does that work?" Liu Chen calmed down first and asked.

"You only need to use your ID on this machine, which will not record your personal information." Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou explained to them in the easiest way.

"Isn't this same to that in the bank?" Liu Chen thought of the bank in the first instance.

"Um, more or less the same. But it's more convenient than that of the bank," Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"That's great. So we don't need to wait in vain later." Liu Chen let out a gasp.

What a joke! Yuan Zhou had so many fans. If Liu Chen still didn't let this end, it would probably be their turn to be gathered around.

The crisis of queuing came soon and vanished quickly. And Yuan Zhou found the existence of the machine had also solved a small problem of the previous mission.

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Chapter 346: The Use of a Queuing Machine

"Thank you, Boss Yuan. And sorry for bothering you." After that, Liu Chen bowed along with others behind him to apologize to Yuan Zhou.

"Um, goodbye." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

Shen Min made way for them at the side. The scene of dozens of people bowing together was quite striking but Yuan Zhou just stayed where he was, stonily, with a manner of indifference.

"See you tomorrow, Boss Yuan." Liu Chen straightened his body and said after others behind him all stood up.

This time, Yuan Zhou didn't answer them but just nodded his head earnestly.

"Don't be so impulsive next time." Director Wu added at the side.

"Surprisingly, they are here for this matter? But I'm really not afraid." Wu Hai clearly knew that these people were not happy to see him live nearby and eat more frequently than them, but he didn't care about it at all.

Ling Hong also shrugged indifferently. Being a boss meant one could just be that capricious. He could come whenever he wanted to.

Seeing Yuan Zhou not care about that, Liu Chen let out a sigh of relief and then turned his head, saying, "Let's go and tell them this good news."

"That's right. We can definitely eat more frequently later. Wonderful!" A person behind him said excitedly.

"Exactly. It can be fairer that way." The people behind said while sharing their happiness.

"Boss Yuan told us that the queuing machine will be provided tomorrow. So don't worry, everybody," someone said loudly.

"Little Jun, what's the situation now?" Liu Chen looked at the people smilingly. When he saw Brother Jun, he asked.

"They are still there and seem to be waiting for us to leave." Brother Jun took a look at the police standing outside.

"Good. Let me go to talk to them. You tell the people to leave now. Tomorrow we can line up to get the number." With a nod, Liu Chen said while walking outside.

"Ok." Brother Jun agreed with a nod.

Liu Chen walked very fast and in just a little while, he arrived beside the two policemen.

"Hi, officers. We are leaving right now. We were here just for the matter of lining up for meals. Nothing more." Liu Chen said earnestly.

"Then you have to make a detailed report to us so that we can take a statement." Officer Ma let out a sigh of relief when he saw the crowds disperse gradually. After that, he took out a notebook.

"Ok, no problem. The thing is that we were unable to get our turn for meals every time we come here or Boss Yuan's business time would have ended when it's our turn. Therefore, we specifically come here to inquire if there's a solution. Now that Boss Yuan has promised that he would set up a queuing machine, it would be better." Liu Chen said that in one breath, thinking there would be no problem.

The two policemen beside him, however, were stunned upon hearing that.

Was it just for this little matter of queuing that such a disturbance was caused?

It was definitely all for queueing up for a meal. If they said they could now line up and get a number, how was the situation previously?

The two police officers indicated that they didn't get it.

"So you all came just for that matter?" The younger policeman reacted flexibly and asked for confirmation.

"Yes, we did. See? They are leaving now, otherwise, we'll affect Boss Yuan's business shortly." Liu Chen pointed at the door with only a few people left and said earnestly.

"Ok. You should also leave. It's a crime to gather a crowd and cause a disturbance. Next time, you'd better take a milder measure," Officer Ma said that immediately.

It was basically the most frequently used words said by the police when they were out on a mission, therefore they said that very fluently.

"Ok, ok. Thank you." Liu Chen nodded his head.

The matter was solved and Liu Chen took his men away. Except the female boss of the noodle restaurant, all that watched the scene for fun were satisfied with the result.

Of course, the two policemen also felt it to be unbelievable. Luckily, they had encountered much stranger affairs, thus they just grumbled a little.

"People nowadays do whatever they could think of." Officer Ma sighed with emotion.

"Exactly. Fortunately, the onlookers all said the same thing. Otherwise, God knows what will happen with so many people all gathering here." The younger officer revealed a thankful manner.

Strange events were always better than serious incidents.

"Little Yuan cooks so well. Some people could never reach that level by envy." Once the police left, Boss Tong said loudly.

"What do you mean? I'm doing that for our common interest. With so many people gathering around here, what if anything bad happens to us." The woman that ran the noodle restaurant

instantly lost her temper and answered loudly.

"You know better than anyone else. This old woman don't know." Boss Tong first humphed and then she returned to her own store.

"What are you muttering about all day long? Come back and wipe the tables." The woman who had intended to go up to Boss Tong and reason with her was interrupted by a male voice coming from the noodle restaurant.

"Got it, got it. All work has to be done by me." Having complained for a while, the woman went back into her restaurant to do her work.

Naturally, Yuan Zhou didn't know that somebody was jealous of him and hence called the police here due to the incident just now. He was now trying to persuade Shen Min.

"You can go back now. This accident has delayed much of your time." When Yuan Zhou found the crowd has left one after another, he said to Shen Min.

"No. I can help you to prepare the dishes." Shen Min looked at Yuan Zhou and said.

"No need. You go back now and come back in the evening." Yuan Zhou shook his head and refused.

"I can do the cleaning." Shen Min had to take the second best option, saying that.

"The so-called job is that you listen to me." Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"Alright. I won't bother you anymore." Seeing Yuan Zhou take out the book and intend to read, Shen Min found it inappropriate to stay here longer.

"Um. Take care." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Ok, good bye." Shen Min walked out of the restaurant slowly.

"Sigh. Fortunately, I'm so smart." Only when he found nobody in

the restaurant did Yuan Zhou sit down.

"What exactly does the queuing machine look like?" After some rest, Yuan Zhou opened the sergestes wall and prepared to check it out.

"Ta Ta Ta", Yuan Zhou walked into the first floor of the pub. A machine that was slightly taller than Yuan Zhou was standing right over there and appeared rather conspicuous.

The entire machine looked like the ticket machine in the cinema. At the bottom part, there was an obvious mark for swiping a card.

The silver shell looked more like futuristic. On the 18-inch-wide screen were only two choices.

"'Eat on time' and 'Wait to eat'. What do they mean?" Yuan Zhou asked with puzzlement.

The system displayed, "'Eat on time' means that you can line up immediately for meals; 'wait to eat' means that we'll arrange another time for those who want to have a meal."

"How many people would be allowed to use the 'wait to eat' service?" Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

The system displayed, "20% of the total customers entertained every day."

"It's quite fair that way." Yuan Zhou immediately understood.

That way, it could solve the problem of those tourists or the future foreign tourists.

Besides, the right of choice was in their own hands of the customers.

"Does it need to be charged? Connected to the internet?" Yuan Zhou walked for a lap around the machine and didn't find the charging port, thus asked curiously.

"By the way, will it be destroyed by rain? I don't have anything to keep out the rain at the door." Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of

that.

The system displayed, "The machine uses 100% natural solar energy and could work in either rain or the sun. It doesn't need to connect internet. And the system will adjust the number of people dining here every day automatically."

"A really comprehensive answer." Yuan Zhou nodded his head with satisfaction.

"Hey!" After Yuan Zhou turned around again, he suddenly put forth his strength and carried the queuing machine up.

"It seems that my exercises have some results." Yuan Zhou set it down lightly and said with a satisfied expression.

As for the fact that the queuing machine was originally very light, he straightforwardly neglected that.

"Now it's the time for me to finish another mission of mine." Yuan Zhou brought out his phone again with a rare evil smile on his face.

Chapter 347: How To Attract Hatred

On the first floor of the pub, Yuan Zhou was holding the phone and laughing privately while at the other side, Li Li only just managed to get some time to rest after working the whole day.

"Head chef, a great event took place today." Dragging his fat body, the chief chef went up to gossip with Li Li when he found him was resting.

"What's wrong?" Li Li drank a gulp of mineral water and asked with a frown.

Meanwhile, he was thinking and guessing what exactly happened today in the main hall.

"That tiny restaurant, Yuan Zhou's restaurant, was surrounded and blocked today. It was quite a spectacular scene." While saying that, the chief chef waved his hands excitedly.

"What happened?" Li Li frowned more tightly.

"I'm not too sure. I just heard that from others that the young boss was unable to go outside." The chief chef muttered.

"So you don't know the reason?" Li Li asked to the point.

"Yes, I know, I know. That young boss has an unfair rule of queuing and thus many people are unable to eat meals. Presumably, those people were requesting for extra meals." The chief chef said immediately when he heard Li Li was suspicious about his information.

"Extra meals? To increase the time?" Li Li's eyebrows got tighter.

"Exactly. Head chef, you never know how bustling the scene was. They held the banner and blocked the door and even attracted the police here." The chief chef spoke as if he was telling a joke about Yuan Zhou, therefore he said quite devotedly.

Having heard that, Li Li suddenly untied the apron, wiped his

hands clean and walked outside of the kitchen.

"What's wrong with our head chef?" The chief chef was a little dumbfounded. He didn't understand why Li Li suddenly left.

"Let's go together." Li Li turned his head and suddenly said to the chief chef.

"Haw? Where?" The chief chef was slightly puzzled.

"To help." Li Li said decidedly.

"Help? Help that young chef?" Finally, the chief chef realized his meaning, but he just appeared a little unbelievable.

Without answering him, Li Li just nodded his head.

"Head chef, don't you dislike him?" The chief chef blurted out that.

"As a chef, as long as you can make customers satisfied with the taste and nutrition, it's alright." Li Li said earnestly.

"But..." The chief chef was reluctant to go to help with him.

"We are all chefs and really ought to go." Li Li turned his head and took a look at the chief chef and then said lightly.

"Ok. Let me bring a knife." The chief chef nodded his head and prepared to take a kitchen knife.

"Don't make it so complicated. Hurry up." Li Li directly walked away speechlessly.

"Pa Da Pa Da", the two persons walked quickly to the door and only then did they find there was nobody anymore in the empty street.

"Gee? What's the matter? Just now, there were so many people." The chief chef revealed a puzzled manner.

"Where are the people gone?" Li Li tilted his head and asked the greeter.

"They are all gone. I heard that the problem was solved. The boss

provided a queuing machine or something similar." The greeter reacted swiftly, saying that.

"Ok. Go back." Li Li turned around and went back to the kitchen again.

Since the problem had been solved, there was no need to go over there anymore. He had no interest in looking at Yuan Zhou's manner of arrogance.

Yuan Zhou's indifference was interpreted by Li Li as excessive arrogance.

"The head chef changes so easily!" The chief chef patted on his fat belly and then said speechlessly.

With different viewpoints, people had different understandings. Therefore, the chief chef didn't understand why Li Li did it that way.

However, Li Li didn't need to explain. He had already started to prepare the Beef Wellington.

It was his unique weapon to win. Stealing away Yuan Zhou's business was his recent target.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou didn't know that somebody was thinking how to snatch his business. Instead, he was still creating his halo of insults (meaning that the way he speaks often insults others).

Meanwhile, he didn't forget to complain, "Speaking of which, I have the system's backup and; furthermore, I am a prince charming. Why does nobody come to me for romance? Those are usually shown in the TV series."

"Where's the hero's halo of insults?" Yuan Zhou complained again.

If anybody asked what Yuan Zhou was doing, the answer would be that he was provoking people everywhere.

Displayed on Yuan Zhou's phone was a Wechat group called Communication Group for Foodies Home and Abroad, where the group members were chatting heatedly.

There were Chinese and foreigners that talked with each other in Chinese and, occasionally, English in the group.

Yuan Zhou could understand all the Chinese. For the English, however, he had only to guess.

After all, Yuan Zhou was a man that had gotten 0 marks even when the English test was all multiple choice questions.

However, that totally didn't affect Yuan Zhou implementing his plan. He used an anonymous ID to participate the chat privately with a name totally unknown to others.

It would be called Countless Pi. Yuan Zhou nodded his head contentedly and thought that nobody could recognize him.

Countless Pi, [All that you have eaten are rubbish. I mean all of you.]

Once he typed the message, the hatred was thoroughly attracted. Therefore, many group members started to reply him.

I'm Zi Qiao, [Ouch. A newbie is intending to offend us. Come and tell us what you have eaten before.]

Countless Pi, [Haw-haw. Of course the Chinese dishes. But do you expect an answer from me once you ask that? No, I won't tell you. Haw-haw.]

Thunderclap Thunder, [The way you talk is so awesome. Why don't you just show us?]

Various Chinese Dynasties, [Although I believe Chinese dishes are the most delicious, reasonably speaking, French dishes are also very nice.]

Da Zhuang, [Even if there are many delicious dishes in China, you cannot ignore our Italian dishes.]

Tina0914, [[That's right. The delicacies in Germany also cannot be ignored.]]

Similar comments flashed by quickly on the screen. Yuan Zhou waited quietly and only appeared again when he saw the atmosphere get heated.

Countless Pi, [Ho Ho. I did not mean to target France. What I really mean is that all dishes in your country are rubbish.]

The shameless tone of Yuan Zhou made all the members in the group speechless. This time, they uttered no more mild words.

Instead, they started to curse him altogether. After a long while, the person named Zi Qiao who answered Yuan Zhou first just now showed up and uttered, [This person is using a new and non-certified Wechat account. We can just neglect him.]

After that, she posted a pile of evidence. Then, there was no then. Yuan Zhou was cleanly kicked out from the group.

Taking the phone, Yuan Zhou knitted his brows, "It seems that the Wechat group doesn't work anymore. I will be easily kicked out. There would be no problem for the forum."

That's right. The only purpose of Yuan Zhou by doing that was to create the insulting halo. Like what he says, he can probably be located by a hacker and be disclosed to the public. That way, there would always be someone who wouldn't believe him and then came to have a taste.

Right after that, Yuan Zhou started to log in the forum deftly and actively. He used the anonymous ID and didn't mention the address and the name of his restaurant and thus he had no worries about the requirements of the system.

Yuan Zhou had experimented just now and the system had no reaction.

He didn't really know any foreigners, nor did he know how to climb over the Great Fire Wall. He had only to find some forums

popular in both native and abroad to try the method.

"Although I was kicked out, the effect of attracting hatred is fairly impressive." Stroking his forehead, Yuan Zhou said earnestly.

The first one was a quite well-known gourmet forum as there were many foreigners inside.

It was said that many foreigners would first log in this forum before they came to China. Of course, it was helpfully provided by Sun Ming.

He was actually a senior foodie that stayed in the gourmet circle for quite a long time. All forums that Yuan Zhou knew of were basically provided by Sun Ming.

Because of that, Yuan Zhou was ridiculed by him. After all, Yuan Zhou's English-speaking ability was way too inferior.

Yuan Zhou changed another anonymous ID, 'The Mantissa of Pi'.

Once he logged in the forum, he found a post on discussions of flavorings and foods and then he followed with a reply.

The Mantissa of Pi, [I'm not targeting anybody, but I just feel that you guys have never eaten authentic cuisines. What you are talking about is actually pig feed.]

After he posted that, Yuan Zhou waited there to be cursed.

Yuan Zhou's method worked very well, but he was cheated again by the system...

Chapter 348: Strengthening Effect of the System

The arrogant words of Yuan Zhou on the forum naturally attracted many people to disagree.

The first one who started to disagree was quite an influential person, which could be easily seen from his messages. ID Tang Xuehai, [I don't know where you get this conclusion, but I can tell you for sure that every country where I have ever stayed has their unique delicacy.]

Unkind Devil Chef, [As a chef, I want to tell you that I cook very well. Anyway, all my customers say so.]

US 99975564, [Although fast food presides over the majority in the US, there are also many delicacies.]

These were all mild messages, most of which were too prove their culinary skills or else to peacefully express their discontent. However, if there was peacefulness, there was naturally more aggressive messages.

Full Level Evasion, [You said that as if you were quite awesome. Get out and tell me where you eat your meals.]

Stormy Sword Devil, [Stop bullshitting. Leave me the address. Let me come and find you."]

Caring Foolish Youngsters, [Come, come here. Let's have a friendly talk. I will not beat you too heavily.]

Zi Yu Ting, [I haven't seen such a person that deserves beating for long. My 40-meter-long big knife is hungry now.]

"A piece of cake." Looking at the discontented messages all over the screen, Yuan Zhou revealed a smile and replied another message.

The Mantissa of Pi, [I have indeed eaten many delicious dishes.

What are you going to do? Bite me? As for the address, I will never tell you guys where it is. If you are capable, you try to track my IP. Haw-haw]

The next moment, Yuan Zhou closed the web page. At the moment, Yuan Zhou acted as if he was possessed by Ling Hong. Not just the tone of dislike but even the expression was the same as him. The Ling Hong-style sharp tongue took effect.

Yuan Zhou went to the forums provided by Sun Ming one by one to leave messages and then, naturally, he was chased by others on the forums. However, Yuan Zhou ran away immediately after he successfully attracted the hatred.

Besides that, as the hatred was attracted by himself, he didn't feel unhappy. Instead, he felt a sense of achievement.

"Hooo. Finally. Let me witness the capability of those hackers." Yuan Zhou lay down the phone contentedly and prepared to take a rest.

The matter of queuing machine was known by others gradually.

"Chirp Chirp, Chirp Chirp." A continuous melodious birdsong passed from inside of Wu Hai's art studio.

"What's the matter?" Wu Hai answered the phone and asked directly.

"I heard that Yuan Zhou is starting using the queue numbers?" The voice of Jiang Changxi passed from the phone.

"Um. We can see what exactly it's like tomorrow." Wu Hai hung up the phone immediately after he said that.

Looking at the phone in her hand, Jiang Changxi was rather speechless. After quite a while, she gnashed the teeth in anger, saying, "This guy is fated to die alone, like Yuan Zhou."

She then could only call Yuan Zhou helplessly.

"Hey. Can you tell me about the situation this afternoon?"

Without any nonsense, Jiang Changxi asked directly once the call was put through.

"This afternoon? Nothing happened." Yuan Zhou suddenly recalled the matter that he attracted the hatred everywhere and denied decidedly.

"Didn't you say that we have to line up by number later?" Jiang Changxi reminded him.

"Yes, indeed." Yuan Zhou got slightly relieved and answered lightly.

"It's so chaotic to line up. Do you have sufficient time?" Jiang Changxi frowned and said.

"I have a queuing machine now. I don't need to worry about that." Yuan Zhou answered with an affirmative tone.

It was known that anything provided by the system was the best.

"Alright. That's it." Jiang Changxi became speechless. This time, she hung up the phone by herself.

For the whole afternoon, Yuan Zhou waited for the replies from the forums with an excited mood and then found nobody was chasing after him.

"It might be because the time was too short? Or should I go attract more hatred?" Yuan Zhou just did it as planned.

He took up the phone and did the same as just now again. To make it even clearer, he specifically reminded that a hacker could come to trace him. However, nothing happened except for more severe curses.

However, patience was the last thing that he lacked. After all, a mission wasn't likely to be accomplished in one go.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou waited for two days calmly, but still, nothing happened.

Yuan Zhou felt that things might have been calmed down.

However, those who had been offended didn't think that way.

On the forums home and abroad, the foreigners offended were totally unhappy.

It was a thorough contempt for the delicacies of their countries.

According to Six Degrees of Separation, one only needed 6 people to know another person. Therefore, it wasn't a difficulty to know a hacker.

Let alone, a computer layman such as him didn't even know how to defend against the attacks at all.

Thus, a person tried to fight back.

"It's surprisingly a new account. Just a piece of cake." A boy dressed in a sweater revealed an expression of excitement in a Southeast Asian-styled room.

His name was Jack. Although the name was very common, the person himself wasn't common at all.

He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a major in Environmental Sciences and worked decently during normal times. However, what he did privately was quite different.

He worked privately as a hacker. Nevertheless, his hobby wasn't as exaggerated as described in novels.

Therefore, he didn't like hanging out in the Department of Defense, but went to stroll in the blogs of some beauties.

For example, improperly acquiring their phone number or some private photos for self-satisfaction.

However, it was absolutely a piece of cake to source an IP.

On seeing it a new account, Jack instantly paid no attention to that. For him, this kind of new account was either a new netizen or an anonymous ID, which for him was not a big problem.

"Let me source him along the network cable." Jack spoke Chinese

oddly and then started while muttering.

Ten minutes later, half an hour later, one hour later...

"Fu*k, sh*t." Jack cursed continuously.

That's right. He had been attacking Yuan Zhou's IP for the past one hour, but the computer of the opponent was as still as before and had no reaction at all.

No matter computer virus or decoding, however hard they endeavored, Yuan Zhou's computer was a pool of dead water, not having the slightest waves.

"Damn it. Let me try my best to attack his system." Jack rolled up his sleeves and tried again.

At the other end, some other hackers encountered the same situation.

Yuan Zhou's phone and computers were like the cake locked up in the preservation tank. It was delicious but they couldn't eat it.

However, all that was unknown to Yuan Zhou.

He didn't know that it was because of the protection provided by the system.

Formerly, Yuan Zhou hated the noise of the band organized by Ling Hong and cheated the system for a set of protection facilities that were specially designed.

And the system also offered the best protection for him honestly and frankly. From the former memory alloy-steel plate that prevented the gourmet thief to the current electronic protection.

However, Yuan Zhou had no idea of that and thus knew nothing about how considerate the system was.

Although the protection was actually a pitfall for Yuan Zhou currently.

That only baffled those hackers that never gave up.

In the heart of each of them, they all had the same thought, "It's not the dam Department of Defense. Is it really necessary to be defended so heavily?"

"So strange. How could these people bear such an insult? Why don't they come to me?" Yuan Zhou was quite puzzled.

Nothing happened in the past two days, which was totally incomprehensible to him.

While Yuan Zhou was in contempt of them, the hackers were, nevertheless, cursing him on the other side.

"It seems that I can only register some more new accounts." Yuan Zhou took his phone and decided to go to the cybercafe when he was free right now.

Chapter 349: Varieties of [Manton](#)

"Ta Ta Ta", Yuan Zhou walked quickly to the cybercafe.

"One computer for me." Yuan Zhou took out his own ID and said directly.

"Alright. It's done. A charge 10 RMB and you will get the membership of our cybercafe automatically. Do you need it?" The receptionist girl said enthusiastically.

"No need, but thanks." Yuan Zhou took a look at the sheet in his hand and refused the invitation.

Compared with the benefits, time mattered more.

He turned on his computer quickly and logged in his own account. Of course, it was the account of The Mantissa of Pi.

However, he didn't know that a group of great white sharks were waiting for him at the other end of the network.

"Damn it. That person appeared again. Get up. Let's move." At the other end of the network, Jack immediately dragged up his friend excitedly and started to look for Yuan Zhou once he realized that he was online.

Without the protection of the system this time, the security of the computers in the cybercafe was like a layer of window paper. As long as you poked it, it broke easily.

Just in a few minutes, the exact IP address was easily found by Jack.

"Why do I feel like it's so easy this time?" Jack found it a little hard to understand.

"Let's first check where this IP address is." Jack's friend was calmer than him.

It was even easier this time as all cybercafes ought to have an official registration currently. After they checked for a while, they

founded it was a cybercafe. Therefore, the two of them became relieved.

"Why doesn't he conceal himself anymore?" Jack was a little suspicious.

"It might be because he didn't think we can get him and thus exposed himself intentionally." The friend of Jack thought for quite a while and then made the most reliable speculation till now.

"Damn it! I really want to know what place this guy is talking about exactly." Jack said that discontentedly with a flush on half of his face.

They typed the keyboard with their hands and started to search for any related information.

As usual, Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief after he posted some insulting messages on the forum. Then he checked out and went offline.

...

Having busied for a whole night, Yuan Zhou turned on his phone again before he slept. Finally, there appeared a satisfactory result.

On the forum, a person with his ID of Caught You sent him a message, [I have got you and will arrive at your place in no time. Just wait.]

The expression following that was a bloody knife.

"Good. Eventually, someone found me." Yuan Zhou was then rest assured.

Besides, he wasn't worried that these people would know it was him who released the information. After all, he had changed his sim card smartly.

"Sleep." Yuan Zhou set down the phone and went to wash up happily, preparing to rest.

Because of his good mood, Yuan Zhou even intended to make

something new for breakfast tomorrow.

It had been a while since he had a new type of food for breakfast last time.

Yuan Zhou got up early on the next morning. Making Mantou was no easier than other foods. It could be said to be even more difficult.

Because it had no stuffing inside, whether or not it was delicious was directly related to his craftsmanship and food ingredients.

The food ingredients were naturally provided by the system. And moreover, the flour was different from that used for the steamed buns.

"System, we can use the same flour to make both the steamed buns and Mantou, can't we?" Looking at the two conspicuous characters of Mantou on the cabinet, Yuan Zhou asked with a helpless manner.

The system displayed, "Every food has some ingredients that are best suitable for it."

"I think you purely want to show that you are generous and capricious." Yuan Zhou looked at the two neighboring cabinets full of flour and couldn't help complaining.

However, the system straightforwardly switched on its face-slapping skill once it was offended.

The system displayed, "The area in the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze River are considered to be the winter wheat regions, where the fields take up 12.3% and the total yield takes up 45%. During the period between March to May, the light, temperature and water are just right. Other areas where the precipitation is over 450mm at the same period aren't suitable for the winter wheat."

"The area of Northeastern China is the spring wheat area. The temperature in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces is very low and

thus the spring wheat is suitable to be planted there."

"As for the area of Northwestern China, it consists of spring and winter wheat area, irrigated area and loess plateau area. The spring wheat takes up the majority except for the South Xinjiang area, where the winter wheat has good adaptability, high yield, superior quality and a wonderful taste."

"The famous Tibetan Plateau is considered the spring and winter wheat area. The light, temperature and water match well for the growth and head sprouting of wheat. The maturation period is as long as 50-80 days; therefore the taste of the wheat is very good."

"Stop, please. I understand now." Finally, Yuan Zhou found a gap in the long paragraphs of words and thus said decidedly.

The system displayed, "The wheat is planted in autumn, grows in winter, blossoms in spring and pollinates in summer. The plants absorb the essence of the four seasons and can produce wheat with wonderful taste in the pollution-free areas."

"The history of eating Mantous in China could be traced back to Warring States Period about three thousand years ago. The historical event where Emperor Qinzhao made steamed wheaten pancakes and the event where the Qi authority stipulated that the wheaten pancakes should be used while offering sacrifices to gods or ancestors in the Imperial Ancestral Temple, which were described in the Qi Book, were all mentioning the most ancient type of Mantou."

"Mantous in the South and the North aren't exactly the same. In the area of Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai, the wheaten food with stuffing inside but no broth is called Mantou. Those without stuffing inside are called Wheat Flour Mantous. Contrarily, the wheaten food with broth inside are called Soup Buns, for example, the steamed Soup Dumplings in Suzhou."

"In the northern part of China, the wheaten food that has stuffing inside is called Steamed Bun while that without stuffing is

naturally the Mantou. There are no Matous with broth at the North."

"Will you always show off your knowledge upon being offended?" Yuan Zhou was defeated by the system.

After the system made the popularization of science as above, Yuan Zhou became a little speechless.

"Let's make an agreement, ok? Next time, if we don't feel good with each other, can you just show off rewards?" Yuan Zhou proposed earnestly.

Having shown off its great knowledge, the system directly ignored Yuan Zhou and contrarily started to show off the origin of the food ingredients.

While the system was showing off various food ingredients, Jack and his friend were also packing things up and preparing to go to China from a different time zone. What a joke! Yuan Zhou had tortured them for quite a few days. Now that they got him, they naturally wanted to go there for confirmation.

Just for a tour.

"I'm really insane. Why am I not going to pick up girls but instead accompany you abroad to have a meal?" With a speechless manner, Jack's friend knitted his brows like an aged man.

"You don't get it. It's related to my dignity. If it's not delicious as expected, just wait and see how I screw him up." Jack pinched the belt of the backpack and said bitterly.

"It's just a matter on the internet. Do we really need to be so serious?" His friend shrugged helplessly.

"No. I don't think so. Aren't you Chinese? You can be my interpreter." Jack hugged his friend's neck and said friendly.

"Hey. Easier said than done. I've never been to Chengdu before." His friend took Jack's hand off his neck and rolled his eyes

discontentedly.

That's right. Jack's friend was a Chinese, but he wasn't from Sichuan Province. He still felt Jack's insanity a little unacceptable.

Of course, the reason he would accompany Jack to China was that Jack was a good friend of his from his college time till now. When he came to the US at the beginning, this guy helped him a lot. Since Jack wanted to go to China now, he had the obligation to offer help.

The only Chinese that this guy learned and mastered were the two words of "Thank you". If he went there alone, he probably would go to the embassy for help. He had even gotten lost in the US, let alone in China.

"It doesn't matter. Your language is too complex for me. However, I don't fear at all since you are with me. I will let him know by all means that medicine can be eaten indiscriminately while the words can't be said randomly." Jack smiled confidently.

"I'm convinced by you. Let's go. They have announced for boarding." His friend rolled his eyes and walked away ahead of him.

The two persons that had been ridiculed most by Yuan Zhou were coming for him now...

Mantou is a plain steamed bun with no fillings, a kind of cooked wheaten food.

Chapter 350: Name of the Thousand Layer Mantou

At the other side, the system continued to show off its great knowledge without stopping.

The system displayed, "One thousand years ago, the yield of one wheat was 10 to 12 grains while now, it is 20 or so. It has more than doubled."

"Besides that, the earliest remains of wheat were found in Peacock River basin, namely the Rou-Ran district. After combining the ancient wheat and the current wheat, the system believes that 16 grains on each wheat are in the best form. Therefore the yield of every wheat is 16 grains with each grain plump and full. The sunlight was natural while the rain was sufficient.

"The system uses the most careful method of picking the wheat heads by hand and then grinds the flour using the ancient processing way."

"All the flour provided by the system is sieved for 6 times. Therefore, the flour is white and fine; the best choice for making Mantou."

"Besides that, it contains starch, protein, fat, mineral substances, Ca, Fe, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, Vitamin A, and various abundant mineral substances."

"All in all, you just want to tell me yours is the best. To summarize again, the flour that you provide is the best." Yuan Zhou covered his forehead with his hand helplessly.

The system responded with silence and didn't pay attention to Yuan Zhou's complaint.

"System, I feel all that you provide me is the best. And if you don't charge me when I eat, I feel that it will be even better." Occasionally, Yuan Zhou joked around with the system.

Although the system gave no response.

After the daily joke, Yuan Zhou washed his hands earnestly and prepared to make the Mantou.

Speaking of which, even Yuan Zhou's hand-washing water was superior. The temperature was just perfect, neither too cold nor warm, making it feel like it didn't even exist.

Nevertheless, its effect for cleaning hands was pretty good.

Yuan Zhou who suffered from obsessive-compulsive-disorder and the system that had an abnormal fear of dirt or contamination were a perfect combination.

On the other side, Yuan Zhou took up the bamboo splits beside him and brought out the flour before getting to work.

Dawn was getting later and later. At about 7:50 a.m., the sky became clear and light.

"Yo... Wu Hai, you are so early." Su Mu brought his sister here and waved his hand to Wu Hai ahead of him.

However, Wu Hai didn't answer him at all. Instead, he walked quickly to the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and swiped his ID card in front of the queuing machine. After a sound of "Di", there appeared two options on the machine. Wu Hai naturally chose the option "Eat On Time".

Immediately, the machine spat out a ticket, on which a big number 1 was written. Seeing that, Wu Hai smiled contentedly.

"Tsk-tsk. You even don't let go of one single second." Su Mu also went up swiftly to swipe the ID cards with Su Yuesheng.

"Of course. I live so close," Wu Hai stroked his small mustache and said proudly.

"It's all because of you. Otherwise, we don't even need to line up." Su Mu wouldn't admit failure so easily.

"Never mind. Boss Yuan will also need it later. But I was

absolutely wise when it came to buying this house." Wu Hai turned his head and took a look at the art studio on the second floor of the building across the street.

"You are really awesome! It seems that I also need to invest in a house." Su Mu was considering the feasibility of the matter.

"It's our turn now." Seeing the two guys chatting in front of the queuing machine, others that waited behind them couldn't help saying that.

"I'm sorry." Su Mu brought his sister a few steps back and made way for others.

Then, the crowd rushed to swipe their ID cards like a swarm of bees.

The time set by Yuan Zhou was quite reasonable. The customers could get the first twenty numbers about five minutes before the meal started. Of course, as convention suggested, whoever came earlier got the smaller number. After the meal commenced officially, others behind could only get the bigger numbers.

That way, it saved a lot of time that would have been delayed in getting the numbers one by one. Yet, it also didn't go so far as not to let others behind get the number.

During the past two days after the queuing machine was used, things went very smoothly without any problems.

After a sound of "Hua La", the door was opened. Zhou Jia stood out and said smilingly, "Business time starts now."

"Ah. Finally. I'm almost dead from hunger. Luckily I got the first number." While entering the restaurant, the customer didn't forget to show off.

"Indeed. What will Boss Yuan provide for breakfast today?" Customers always cared more about the dishes.

"The Thousand Layer Mantou will be provided today. The price

has been made known publicly. Also, you can see it on the menu." Yuan Zhou pointed at the menus on the wall behind and in front of everyone.

"Mantou? The kind without any meat stuffing?" A fat customer frowned discontentedly.

"Don't you like it? You can give it to me." Wu Hai was quite sensitive to such matters. He went up immediately on hearing that.

"Not really. I prefer to eat soup dumplings or sesame seed cake now. I haven't eaten them for a long time." The fatty touched his belly and said alertly.

"If you can't finish them, you can share some with me beforehand to prevent you from getting blacklisted." Stroking his small mustache, Wu Hai said mildly.

He talked as if he were kindly offering help.

"No, no. Look at my figure and you'll know my appetite. I can surely eat them up." The fatty patted on his belly and said with quite a convincing tone.

"Oh." Wu Hai nodded his head and then said no more.

"This brat wants to cheat others again." Su Mu turned his head and said to Su Yuesheng. Just before Su Yuesheng reacted, however, he immediately said in the opposite direction, "Yuesheng, I remember that you don't like eating Mantous, right? Let me treat you to some pastries and help you to eat up the Mantou."

"Ho Ho." The scorn on the girl's face almost overflowed.

They all wanted to take advantage of others with a seemingly high-handed reason.

The failure of cheating for others' food didn't affect Wu Hai's mood. After all, he had never succeeded once and thus already got

used to that. Seeing the food carried to him, he began to eat it immediately.

"Here's your Thousand Layer Mantou." Zhou Jia carried the food steamer up and put it in front of the fatty.

"Um." The fatty nodded his head.

The heat emitted from the food steamer, where several walnut-sized Mantou lay. The color was snowy white while the skin was silvery. They all looked exquisite and adorable.

"Is this Mantou? They look so small. I can even eat up two with a simple bite." The fatty breathed in the fragrance of the Mantou and murmured.

The fatty was indeed right. Even if there were only eight Mantou, he still picked two together at a time and stuffed them into his mouth.

On entering his mouth, the fragrance of the Mantou dispersed inside. The skin of the small Mantou had slight toughness. With a simple bite through it, however, the delicate fragrance of the wheat grains came out immediately.

Having filled his mouth, he began to chew the Mantou carefully. The Mantou tasted soft and fluffy and while chewing it, it felt as if there were many layers, making the texture continuous as well as fine and smooth.

Even if he drank no water, it didn't affect him in swallowing it all. It was unbelievably fluffy and palatable.

During the period, the strong fragrance of wheat grains filled his nose. Upon tasting that, one could easily know it was made with very fresh flour. There was not the slightest taste of flavoring, only the pure wheat flour.

What they longed for was exactly that feeling of freshness.

"Too bad it's too small. If it's as large as my face, I can take it in

my hand and eat it carefully. With Boss Yuan's craftsmanship, it would be delicious." The fatty ate some Mantou and said loudly, full of dissatisfaction.

Of course it would be delicious. If the Mantou was that big, how could one not feel awesome with the soft and palatable feeling?

"Too small, too little." While gulping down the Mantou, the fatty muttered to himself.

His mouth was busy, still it never stopped.

The thought that it didn't taste good without any stuffing had already been flung to the four winds...

Chapter 351: First Conflict Provoked by the Queuing Machine

"One more serving, please." The fatty ate so happily that he shouted carelessly without noticing it.

"I'm sorry. Each person can only order one serving here." Zhou Jia went up and said dutifully.

Even if she had seen the fatty for several times, she had to remind him smilingly. After all, many people often ate their meals happily and shouted like that subconsciously, which Zhou Jia had gotten used to.

"Oh, right. How could Boss Yuan just serve each of his customers only a few Mantous?" The fatty stroked his belly unwillingly and straightforwardly murmured.

"You can come again to eat at noon." Zhou Jia suggested smilingly.

"I'd like to. But my wallet doesn't allow me to do that. It doesn't always increase in weight like me." The fatty patted on his big and jiggly belly, which was fairly interesting.

Standing at the side, Zhou Jia didn't know what to say and thus just smiled.

"This fatty is so interesting." Su Mu smiled lightly.

"Brother, please don't reach your chopsticks into my food steamer when you are talking." Su Yuesheng seized Su Mu's hand swiftly.

"You misunderstood me. I'm doing this to check if you have wasted any food. Caring for my beautiful younger sister is my duty-bound responsibility." Su Mu talked righteously and solemnly as if it were true.

"If you can put the Mantou between your chopsticks down, I will

believe in that." Su Yuesheng didn't let go of Su Mu's hand and signaled him to talk after putting down the Mantou.

"Although you are my sister, I have to say you are too stingy." Su Mu struggled a little and found he couldn't make it. Only then did he say that to Su Yuesheng.

"Thanks for your compliment." Su Yuesheng nodded her head and thanked him quite politely.

After staying with his brother for a few days, Su Yuesheng wasn't so shy anymore. Sometimes, she retorted back to her brother.

The customers that entered the restaurant first had the meal very contentedly while others waiting behind were also quite expectant.

"I heard it's a new type of food for breakfast. Boss Yuan is always so awesome." The customers stood together by twos and threes and discussed.

"Exactly. I heard it's the delicious little Mantous." Having stayed hungry for the whole morning, the customers naturally discussed the food heatedly.

"Hi, guys. Do you want to try the steamed buns that are freshly prepared?" A hawker went up to peddle his steamed buns immediately when he saw the several people discuss fervently.

"No, no, no. I have a number and will soon eat it. It will ruin my appetite if I eat yours." One of them waved his hand continuously.

"Indeed. We'd rather drink some soybean milk." Another customer thought for a while and then said.

"Yes, of course I have that. It's also freshly made this morning and hence very fragrant. Five cups of that?" The hawker wasn't really angry. Seeing that they have interest in the soybean milk, he immediately took out a cup of that and said.

"Ok. How much?" The customers touched the hot soybean milk and asked after a nod.

"The same price. 5 RMB per cup." The hawker made a gesture of 5 with a smile.

"Here you are." The customer handed him the money and then gave the soybean milk to the other four people.

"I'm still waiting for Boss Yuan to serve the soybean milk." The customers murmured while drinking.

"Anyway, not today." The other one shrugged helplessly.

Speaking of which, the breakfast sold by the hawkers around Yuan Zhou's restaurant was much more expensive, but there were more people who bought from them.

As they all knew that the hawkers that could stay here till now were all very clean. And the soybean milk was truly made from soybeans. Therefore, 5 RMB for 500ml of soybean milk was really not bad in their eyes.

Nowadays, people were quite particular about freshness, health, good taste, and safety. Even if they were not as delicious as the dishes in Yuan Zhou's restaurant, the business of these hawkers was pretty good.

The rule of positive natural selection was best reflected around Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Therefore, the noodle restaurant of which the boss was jealous of Yuan Zhou's business also existed because of its distinct taste.

Five minutes before business time in the afternoon commenced, the customers started to line up and swipe their ID for number tickets. The scene was very like in a bank. Here in Yuan Zhou's restaurant, however, one really had to line up for the ticket to eat lunch even if he was a personnel from the bank.

The first twelve people all proceeded smoothly. When it went to the thirteenth one, something unexpected happened.

It was a young man with a fair and clear face. He looked very young and comely. It seemed that he had never been here before.

He took out his ID and swiped it in front of the machine. Then it displayed, "Data error."

He swiped it again and still, it displayed, "Data error." after a sound of "Di".

"That's weird. What does that mean? It doesn't want me to eat?" Stared by the crowd, the young man flushed slightly and shouted loudly.

"I'm sorry. Please swipe it again." Zhou Jia came over hurriedly and said nervously.

It was the first time that she had encountered such a situation in the recent few days. Thus, she was also puzzled.

"What bloody machine it is! Is it broken?" The young man said discontentedly.

"No, it's not. It was just bought several days ago." Zhou Jia explained mildly.

"The reality proves that. You are selling the dishes so expensive, but you don't even want to buy a good machine." The young man insisted on his own thinking.

"Please try again." Zhou Jia reached out her hand and signaled him.

After he tried again, however, it still displayed "Data error."

"I don't care. It's definitely the problem of your machine. You must keep a number for me." The young man stared at Zhou Jia and then said earnestly.

"I'm sorry. I can't call the shots. Please wait a moment." Zhou Jia said with an apologetic tone.

"Ok. Hurry up." The young man got out of the way and let others swipe their ID cards.

Seeing Zhou Jia running quickly into the restaurant, the young man got slightly relieved. In his eyes, there's supposedly no

problem now.

"Boss, there seems to be something wrong with the machine. A customer is unable to swipe the ID card for a number." On entering the restaurant, Zhou Jia said hurriedly.

"What's displayed?" Yuan Zhou asked calmly.

"He swiped three times, but every time the machine displayed data error." Zhou Jia answered carefully.

"Let him leave." After Yuan Zhou heard that, he said straightforwardly, without even blinking.

"Haw?" It was the second time that Zhou Jia had seen Yuan Zhou drive the customer away. However, there was nothing wrong with the young man except his not-so-good attitude.

"He's not using his own ID card. Tell him that he doesn't need to come again today." Yuan Zhou raised his head and said that while looking at Zhou Jia.

"So it's the reason. Sorry, I'm going right now." Instantly, Zhou Jia felt embarrassed and then ran out quickly.

In Zhou Jia's opinion, Yuan Zhou had given her such a high salary, but she worked so carelessly. She was really embarrassed about that.

At the other side, the young man who had thought it practically sure waited leisurely at the side.

He felt pleased in his heart and thought happily, "This Boss Yuan perhaps will compensate me. After all, I have waited here for so long and still can't get the ticket. Since it's the problem of his own machine, he will necessarily compensate his customer."

Maybe he could also get his superior's recognition as he was one of the first several people.

This person indeed wasn't using his own ID card, nor did he want to come to eat by himself. He just heard his superior wanted to eat

dishes served here but had no time and hence he volunteered to come.

As for no one being allowed to line up for others and people needing to swipe their own ID cards for the ticket, he didn't think a mere machine could distinguish between his boss and him.

Just at that moment, Zhou Jia went up to him and uttered politely with a tough tone, "I'm sorry. We only accept customers to line up in person with his own ID card. Replacements are not allowed."

"You talk nonsense. Where's your boss? I want to see your boss. I'm indeed swiping mine." The fantasy of the young man was interrupted. Therefore, he shouted guiltily.

"Boss Yuan says that you don't need to come again today. You can never get a ticket today." Zhou Jia's tone became a little moderate.

"As for whether or not the ID card is yours, you should know that best," Zhou Jia continued saying.

"Humph. I don't give a sh*t." Seeing others tend to gather around to watch, the young man immediately felt a little embarrassed. After he said that, he ran away right away.

"Take care." Zhou Jia said courteously to the back of the man.

The customers became puzzled. Was the machine capable of recognizing if the ID card matched the person?

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Chapter 352: Automatically Fixing The Bug

"Young girl, can this machine recognize if it's the original person?" A customer asked curiously.

"Yes. One can only use his own ID card to line up. Just as before, replacements are not allowed." Zhou Jia explained mildly with a smile.

"That is way too advanced. Interesting." The customer looked at the queuing machine curiously.

"But you don't need to worry. This machine won't record and keep the private information of the customers." Zhou Jia said beforehand.

"That's great." The customers then became relieved.

After all, this machine only recorded the identification information and nothing else.

Advanced technologies ruled the world nowadays. With only an ID card, one really couldn't do anything substantial. After all, people could no longer act on others' behalf nowadays as everything had to be done by the person concerned himself.

About that, the customers were quite clear.

"Business time commences now. Everybody, now you can go inside and enjoy your meals. Those that waited behind, please start to line up for the ticket." Zhou Jia checked the time and signaled smilingly.

Of the customers that went inside, a person asked Yuan Zhou directly. After all, this queuing machine was so miraculous.

"Boss Yuan, this machine looks so nice. So it can recognize automatically if it is the original person himself?" The customer revealed a curious expression.

"Um. A friend of mine sent it to me." Yuan Zhou said

indifferently.

"Can you get another one? I'm quite interested in it." The customer asked with interest.

"I'm sorry, I can't." Yuan Zhou shook his head.

"Ok, forget it." The customer shrugged, not intending to insist on that.

Customers that had obtained the numbered ticket stood together in twos and threes.

Some even walked out of the side street and prepared to come back after taking a walk around.

Now that the queuing machine was there and they had obtained the valid number and seats, they didn't need to worry that they couldn't manage to have their meals, although they were still unclear when they could eat it. Naturally, they wouldn't line up there and waited to eat obediently.

After taking a walk outside, they could probably eat more dishes later. Therefore, basically every customer in the latter part of the line went to do so in the past few days.

Since there were so many people, there would definitely be chaos if they didn't line up.

"Please come inside and have your meals according to your number." Upon seeing a customer finish his meal and leave, yet realizing that no one had come in to take that seat, Zhou Jia uttered to remind them.

"Little girl, No. 126 is not here. I'm No. 127. Can I go inside first?" A man took his own number and asked affably.

"Sure. Come in, please." Zhou Jia said with a smile.

"Gee? Are you not waiting for that person?" A customer asked with puzzlement.

"Business time is limited. If we wait for that person, it would be

unfair to others. So everybody needs to pay attention to the time." Zhou Jia had said that more than two times, hence she answered very deftly.

The matter of not waiting for anybody was reminded by Zhou Jia every time. Therefore, if anybody missed it, they missed it. They wouldn't wait for anybody, nor would they give him the number again.

"The girl reminds us of the matter every day. What do they think I wait here with the number ticket for?" A customer said while pinching the number ticket in his hand.

"Exactly. If we continue to wait for him, God knows when we can eat the dishes." Other customers instantly made it clear.

"I think so, too. I feel the numbers are getting lesser recently. Do you feel the same?" Another customer said that while taking the numbered ticket.

"Indeed. I remember there were more numbers at the same time yesterday. But today, it decreased by at least 5 numbers." Customers paid much attention to that.

"But I have already checked the time. It's still two hours. What's the matter?" A customer felt slightly puzzled.

Others that heard him fell in silence. It was indeed true, but where exactly did the problem lay?

"It should be like this." Man Man lifted up the number and started to say.

"Formerly when we are lining up, we'll go to eat impatiently right after anybody comes out. But now, we cannot go inside until the girl comes out to call to us. The short walking distance was delayed by at least 1 minute. It's not obvious, but if it accumulates, the time will be a lot." Man Man was quite clever. She said that to a point.

"What she says seems to make sense." Most of the customers agreed with a nod.

"But now that I got the number, I don't want to stand here like a fool." A man with spiky hair said frankly.

"Yes, me too. I don't want to stand here like a fool since I have the number in my hand." After that, more people echoed.

"Exactly. It's too tiring." Other customers nodded their head one after another.

"I think we can do this way. There are only 10 seats in the restaurant. When ten people go inside at a time, the other 10 people behind line up there. That way, when one finishes the meal and comes out, the following one can get inside immediately to reach the seamless convergence." Man Man gesticulated for a while and said earnestly.

"The idea sounds great. Ten people move fairly quickly." The idea received most consent from the customers.

"We have to think this way. If we don't follow this way, we are actually wasting our own time." Man Man continued to persuade them.

"If only Boss Yuan would increase his business hours." A customer sighed.

"That damn Compass probably won't change his rule." Man Man gnashed her teeth and then said.

"Alright. Let's do it like that. Everybody, please be strict with yourselves and save as much time as possible. Otherwise, whoever comes late in future wouldn't have the opportunity to eat the meals."

For their immediate interests, everybody paid much attention to that. If they can save time during the meals, they could also manage to eat when they came late next time. That was pretty good.

Sometimes, one really didn't have so many thoughts while doing good deeds.

It wasn't more complicated than hoping that somebody else could volunteer to help him out when he was in trouble.

Similarly, young people offered their seats to the old in the bus not for anything in return. They just wished that one day when their aged parents were in the crowded bus, others could also offer the seats to them.

While the customers were clearing up a problem by themselves unconsciously, the foreign friends were likewise on the way here at the other side.

"Hey, we finally arrive. I feel that my joints are already stiff." Upon deplaning, Jack stretched himself eagerly.

"Aren't you shameful to say that? What are you complaining for since you slept the whole way?" His friend was, on the contrary, quite dissatisfied.

"Bro, I'm doing this to remove heavy burdens from you." Jack reached out his hand to hang on his friend's neck before saying with a smile.

"Come on. Let's go to the hotel quickly." Seeing so many countrymen around, his friend was quite delighted.

"Hey. Liu, slow down. If I'm lost, you'll have no brother anymore." Jack said shamelessly.

"Please call me by my full name. Every time I hear you utter one word, I get goosebumps all over my body." His friend, whom he called Liu, said firmly.

"Ok, ok. Liu Hui, let's just go to that restaurant in the evening." Jack clenched his fist and said decidedly.

"No, let's go tomorrow. I'm too tired." Liu Hui said firmly.

"Your physical condition is too bad." Jack said with dislike.

"Then you can go alone." Liu Hui said without any hesitation.

"Come on, don't do that. Tomorrow is good. Let's go there at

noon tomorrow." Jack indicated that he was quite self-conscious about the fact that he had no sense of direction.

"Let's go." Liu Hui reached out his hand and stopped a cab.

While the two people were preparing to go to Yuan Zhou's restaurant for meals the next day, coincidentally Yuan Zhou was also preparing to serve another new dish that day. It was a dish that had been prepared for a long time.

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Chapter 353: A New Method of Cooking the Pork

During the dinner time when customers sat together for their meal, Zhou Jia suddenly said to Yuan Zhou in a low voice.

"Boss Yuan, look at Manager Shi." Zhou Jia privately pointed at Manager Shi who was seated in a corner.

"Um. Do you know the reason?" Yuan Zhou had already found that something went wrong with Manager Shi.

"No, I don't. May I go to ask him?" Zhou Jia was a little worried.

"Um." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

Manager Shi was an established customer. After he arrived today, he didn't say anything. Apart from that, he just sat there in a daze. There was even some stubble on his usually confident and clean face. The most unbelievable thing was that the business suit on him today was obviously the one he had worn yesterday and even had some wrinkles.

This was frankly quite impossible for it to happen to Manager Shi.

All the regular customers knew that Manager Shi was a tasteful man. He always wore costly business suits and changed clothes every day. According to him, the business suit was his armor while negotiating deals.

Of course, it needed to be cleaned from time to time.

Therefore, it was the first time that the customers had seen Manager Shi so slovenly.

Wu Hai uttered first ahead of Zhou Jia.

"Old Shi, what's wrong with you? Were you kicked off the bed by your wife?" Wu Hai was really a tough guy while talking.

"No. She's good." Manager Shi remained dumbfounded for quite a while and then answered.

"Then you definitely have a bad appetite and want me to help you, right? No problem. It's just a piece of cake." Wu Hai looked at the Egg Fried Rice in front of him and said cleanly.

"What you care is all about eating, eating and eating. In my opinion, he's going bankrupt." Ling Hong took a look at Wu Hai sneeringly and said jokingly at the side.

"Manager Shi, are you ok?" Only then did Zhou Jia get the opportunity to say that.

"Ho Ho. You are right." Surprised by the several people, Manager Shi wasn't dumbfounded anymore. He simply admitted.

"Haw?" Ling Hong got surprised.

"It's not true, isn't it? Old Shi, you aren't in the business of electronics. How could that be?" With a frown, Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches and said with puzzlement.

At that time, Yuan Zhou went to stand in front of them while Zhou Jia beside dared not say anything.

"Yes, I am. Electronics are really unpredictable. Now I'm bankrupt." Manager Shi appeared to be smiling, but he was actually looking at Yuan Zhou with a sorrowful manner.

"You can still afford my dishes." Yuan Zhou kept silent for quite a moment and suddenly said.

"Yes, but it's the last time." Manager Shi sighed, with depression in his tone.

"It's not worth mentioning for an adult man. Work hard and create your business again." Ling Hong disliked such an atmosphere most. Once he talked, he said that directly.

"Does a second-generation tycoon like you even know about that?" Wu Hai turned his head and stared at Ling Hong.

"Of course. In the business of electronics, you can make an unbelievably much money during good times. But once business becomes terrible, you will lose everything." Ling Hong nodded his head and said immodestly.

"Exactly." Manager Shi nodded his head.

Then, all of them became silent. He failed in his business and it seemed he had nothing left now. Under such situation, whatever others said meant nothing. Therefore, everyone ate their dishes quietly and paid close attention to Manager Shi beside them.

Yuan Zhou, nevertheless, returned to his kitchen and started to cook dishes. Only when he paused did he pay attention to him.

After about 10 minutes of quietness, Manager Shi suddenly stood up, "Boss Yuan, I will come every day rather than every two or three days in future after I make it.

The several words were said sonorously and firmly with powerful confidence. He just stared at Yuan Zhou like that as if to wait for his answer.

"Good." Yuan Zhou set down his spatula and nodded his head earnestly.

Seeing that, Manager Shi began to laugh confidently. He then turned around and prepared to leave.

"But if you don't eat your dishes up, you'll be blacklisted automatically." Just when Manager Shi turned around, Yuan Zhou continued to say.

"Eh..." Even if Manager Shi was a resolute man, he almost couldn't control himself from beating Yuan Zhou to death at that moment.

"Please enjoy your meal." Seeing Manager Shi turn around stiffly, Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"Ho Ho." Manager Shi answered him with the two words. As for

his expression, only Yuan Zhou himself could taste it.

After the conversation between Manager Shi and Yuan Zhou, the atmosphere became back to normal. Almost all the customers were ridiculing Yuan Zhou.

No one really knew what kind of psychological journey did Manager Shi experienced overnight which finally caused him to straighten out his thinking to start anew. Leave that aside, Yuan Zhou still got up very early on the next morning. He needed to prepare a new dish for lunch at noon. Therefore, he specifically served the Thousand Layered Mantou for breakfast.

The time needed for preparing the new dish was quite long. So right after the breakfast time, Yuan Zhou started to prepare the food.

"So it's another kind of pork again this time?" With a mere glance, Yuan Zhou saw a new label pasted on that conspicuous small-sized ice-locker.

The system displayed, "Yes, it is."

After a sound of "Hua", Yuan Zhou pulled open the door of the ice-locker, where big pieces of streaky pork lay. Yuan Zhou took a pair of bamboo clippers and picked a piece of the pork up before placing it in the wooden barrel, ready to be used.

"I know you are a professional." Wearing face mask, Yuan Zhou directly uttered to ridicule it.

Yuan Zhou had expected that the system would reply him to thank for his compliments. However, the system had no reaction at all.

"Peng", Yuan Zhou set the wooden barrel on the azure stone countertop, took off the face mask, and approached the pork carefully to smell the flavor.

"It surprisingly carries a faint fruity taste. Well, and some wine fragrance?" Yuan Zhou put on the face mask and got a little

puzzled.

As far as he knew, no pork had such a taste, let alone when he hadn't cleaned it yet.

"System, what breed is the pig?" Ever since he opened the restaurant, Yuan Zhou had taken many lessons about the knowledge of the food ingredients. With his hard work, he believed that he knew better than the normal top chefs.

Of course, the contribution of the system cannot be left unrecognized. The color of the pork in front of him now was pretty while the fat and lean meat were evenly distributed. The pork skin also had a plump feeling of colloidal matter. Yuan Zhou couldn't recognize at all what breed the pig was.

The system displayed, "This is the Mangalica. The full name is Lincolnshire Mangalica. The pig is also called the Sheep Pig."

"The species has been extinct for 37 years. At the very beginning, the curly wool allows the Sheep Pig to resist cold and live through very cold winters. When it comes to summer, it can also protect it from the burning sun. It comes from Hungary and Austria. Previously, it was often frequently seen in Lincolnshire in Britain. Similar to sheep, it's also suitable for shearing. The wool sheared could be used to make woolen sweaters."

"System, the pig has already been studied by the geneticists, hasn't it?" Yuan Zhou recalled a piece of news before and asked with puzzlement.

The system displayed, "The pig studied is actually the Linculista Pig, which contains a part of genes from the Mangalitza. It's not the previous Mangalica. The meat texture and living habits are quite different."

"So that's why. The pork looks very delicious." Yuan Zhou poked the pork skin with the bamboo chopsticks and said affirmatively.

While Yuan Zhou was observing the pork, the two foreign friends

that came a long way from another country were just on their way to Yuan Zhou's restaurant. However, there appeared very slight divergence between them on the way.

"I think it should be the neighboring restaurant of that tiny restaurant that serves more delicious dishes." Jack pointed at the restaurant "Masterwork Nonsuch" marked on the map and said to Liu Hui earnestly.

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Chapter 354: The Delicious Denmark

Roasted Pork

"No, no, no. You don't understand. If you want to look for something delicious around here, this kind of tiny restaurant is absolutely the best choice." Liu Hui pointed at Yuan Zhou's restaurant and said quite affirmatively.

"Hey. But I think the chef called Li is more reliable. He is a skilled individual internationally." Jack still trusted Li Li, the chef of "Masterwork Nonsuch", more.

"This restaurant was searched and sourced by you yourself." Liu Hui waved his hand.

"Then let's eat in both restaurants." Jack figured out a compromise.

"Ok. Let's eat here first for lunch." Liu Hui said while pointing at Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"No problem." Jack agreed with a nod.

In the meantime, Yuan Zhou was still inquiring about the matter of the Mangalica.

"I'm curious about why the pork carries the fragrance of fruits." While processing the pork carefully and seriously, he asked.

The system displayed, "The system recycles watermelons to feed the Mangalica as the after-meal fruit. Besides that, it even offers other fruits including apple, pineapple and strawberries. Therefore, the fruit fragrance of every piece of pork is different from each other."

"I'd rather not have asked." Yuan Zhou couldn't help saying that while his mouth slightly twitched.

You sure you aren't joking? As the boss in the fruit circle, the watermelon was good enough to be auctioned. But now you're

telling me that it was merely the after-meal dessert of a pig. Not to mention that it also ate other fruits provided by the system. In other words, it can choose whatever it liked to eat."

Humans were even inferior to a pig.

"As a chef, I actually think I also need the vitamins from the fruits to supplement my physical strength." Yuan Zhou said primly.

The system displayed, "The function is temporarily locked."

"So you mean this function does exist?" Yuan Zhou said sensitively.

The system displayed, "Host, please endeavor to level up."

"Alright." Yuan Zhou became speechless.

After a long while, Yuan Zhou changed a question, "With the wine flavor, don't tell me this pig likes drinking liquor?"

What's unusual about the pork was the wine flavor and fruit flavor, therefore Yuan Zhou would definitely ask this question.

The system displayed, "The pig is the pure-breed Mangalica. Its legs are brawny; the skin is white and the meat is tender; the figure is graceful; besides that, its temperament is also mild."

"The Mangalica is a kind of omnivorous animal. It likes inhabiting in grasslands, forests and mountainous areas and living in groups. Its main foods are seeds, rootstocks and fruits of plants like corns, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Also, the fungi-like mushrooms are also their favorite type of food."

"The system raises it with the mountainous feeding method. There is fresh air, green mountains and surrounding water in the place where it's raised, making its growth cycle 2.5 times longer than that of the normal pigs and the meat texture to be low cholesterol, high in nutrition, no residual virus, delicate and tender, mellow-flavored, along with a unique taste as well as being

green and healthy."

"The after-meal fruits and good wine everyday make its meat delicious and fresh with intrinsic fragrance. Therefore, it's free from any underlying bad smell."

"So does it drink the bamboo liquor?" Yuan Zhou asked speechlessly.

The system displayed, "Mangalica likes drinking the Nanxun Wine from Hu'nan Province, especially those kept for more than 3 years."

"What feeling would one have after knowing he is not even living as good as a pig?" Yuan Zhou said dumbly.

He hadn't known that before while he knew it now.

His life was inferior to a pig, which ate pure natural and pollution-free green foods and after-meal fruits and even enjoyed drinking wine, good wine.

"I have never heard of any pig that drinks wine and fruits." Yuan Zhou said indignantly.

Only after he complained for a while and knew something about the pork did he start to cook the dish.

At that time, customers likewise began to form a line."

"See the long line? It's exactly the right place." Liu Hui raised his eyebrows and looked at Jack, indicating the differences between the two restaurants.

"But I don't think that way. That restaurant is much bigger than this one, so it's very common that no one lines up there." Jack shrugged and said while pointing at the other restaurant.

"Moreover, this place is fairly strange." Jack pointing at Yuan Zhou's restaurant and said.

"I feel the same, too." This time, Liu Hui agreed with Jack.

It wasn't a good time when they arrived. They were waiting at the latter part of the line. When they saw people ahead start to take the number ticket, they thought they could also take the ticket and have a meal. After tens of people took the number ticket, however, no one followed.

"Liu, what do you think is the matter? Is anything different?" Jack pointed to the people who got the ticket and asked curiously.

"I don't know, either. Maybe they are the members of this restaurant?" Liu Hui guessed.

"They don't look like the members. Look, they are also waiting." Seeing the people taking the number ticket and continue waiting there, Jack believed it wasn't that reason.

"They seem to be taking the ID card." Liu Hui had a pair of sharp eyes, thus he caught sight of the situation there easily.

"What's that?" Jack didn't really understand.

"It's something like identification paper." Liu Hui explained to him.

"Ok. It's so complicated. Why do they need that just for a meal? I have only the passport. Does it work?" Jack spoke English fluently while Liu Hui also answered in English.

Therefore, the conversation that seemed to be full of complaints between the two wasn't interrupted by anybody, even if somebody understood them.

"It may not work. Let's wait and see." Liu Hui shrugged. After all, he had never heard of passports that could work on machines since it wasn't in banks or other institutions.

"It's the only way." Jack nodded the head. They were still some distance away from taking the number ticket.

While working in the restaurant, Yuan Zhou didn't actually know that his sarcasm had truly attracted the real foreigners. He

was still signaling Zhou Jia to come to him.

"A new dish is going to be served today. The Denmark Roasted Pork." Once Zhou Jia went into the kitchen, he told her straightforwardly.

"Ah, another new dish today? I didn't manage to inform our customers, again." Zhou Jia was a little worried.

"It doesn't matter. They'll know that after a while." Yuan Zhou said with a comforting manner.

"But many people won't know about it if we do something like that." Zhou Jia looked at the crowds outside and said.

"Never mind. They'll know after some while." Yuan Zhou said calmly.

"Alright. I'm going to inform them now." Zhou Jia walked out of the restaurant again hurriedly.

"Today Boss Yuan will serve a new dish, more specifically, an exotic dish." On exiting the door, Zhou Jia said loudly.

"Wow! Another new dish today? We didn't come in vain." A customer immediately said happily when he heard the new dish.

"Exactly. I'm so smart that I came ten minutes earlier today. Otherwise, how could I get my turn?" Liu Chen, who had once been here for negotiations, revealed a thankful expression.

"Hey hey. It's so good and promising to be with Brother Chen." Brother Jun stood behind Liu Chen and said smilingly.

The customers were all expectant of Yuan Zhou's new dish, because it would be another tasting trip for an exotic dish. After the translation by Liu Hui, however, the newly arrived foreigner didn't become expectant.

"It's surprisingly an exotic dish. I came a long way to eat Chinese dishes, not exotic dishes." Jack was quite dissatisfied.

"There should also be other dishes. You can order something

else." Liu Hui didn't really mind.

"You don't understand. One could only cook well by concentrating on one thing at a time. If that chef cooks exotic dishes today, his culinary performance of the Chinese dishes today cannot be as good as in normal time, either." Jack said affirmatively.

"It's likely to happen. But we can try the other one in the evening." Liu Hui tried to comfort him.

"Complicated procedures. Hope the taste doesn't let me down." Jack had to answer that way.

However, would Yuan Zhou let his customers down? That was an absolutely impossible matter.

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Chapter 355: Taste of Roasted Pork Matched With Parsley Sauce

"Boss Yuan is working really hard recently. You are serving a new dish again." Upon entering the restaurant, Wu Hai stroked his small mustache and teased.

"Yeah. He's serving new dishes more frequently recently." Yin Ya, who hadn't been here for a long time, nodded her head and echoed.

"It's been a while," Yuan Zhou ignored Wu Hai directly and said to Yin Ya lightly.

"Yes. I went back home." After a nod, Yin Yi revealed a hint of happiness on her beautiful face.

"Tsk. An adult man is really not welcomed." Wu Hai said to himself.

"What do you want to eat today?" Having ignored Wu Hai's sarcastic comments, Yuan Zhou said to Yin Ya straightway.

"I heard you're going to serve a new dish. What is it?" Yin Ya covered her mouth and smiled and only then did she ask.

"It's a famous Denmark dish, the Roasted Pork Matched With Parsley Sauce." Yuan Zhou showed the menu to her.

"It looks a little greasy." Yin Ya frowned and became a little hesitant.

Maintaining a figure was the goal of every woman. However delicious the food was, they would slightly hesitate.

"No, it's not." Yuan Zhou answered earnestly.

"Get me a serving of the dish, please." Yin Ya trusted Yuan Zhou very much. She was just suspicious about the fat on her body.

"Alright. Please wait for a moment." Yuan Zhou agreed with a

nod.

While Yin Ya got seated anxiously on this side, Zhao Yingjun brought a man, who was dressed in a long-sleeve shirt and casual pants, to sit down at the other side.

"Bai Pi, this restaurant serves really nice dishes. There's also Swedish Meatball, a dish of the country where you have been last time." Zhao Yingjun guided the man to sit down.

Habitually, he put their number tickets into a special box and didn't stop talking while still introducing the food to the man.

"That's Norway, a different place from Sweden." The man called Bai Pi rolled his eyes discontentedly and then emphasized.

"I know. It's easier to be remembered than your name." Not to be outdone, Zhao Yingjun started to mock at his friend's name.

"What I want to eat isn't the meatballs. Do they have the swordfish, the Fragrant Boiled Swordfish?" Bai Pi wasn't interested in the dish of Swedish Meatball.

"Definitely not here." Zhao Yingjun answered affirmatively.

"How do you know?" Bai Pi said discontentedly.

"Ho Ho. I can even recite the menu of this restaurant." Zhao Yingjun took a look at Bai Pi with a wink of "You don't know about my power at all." and then said that.

"Why would you memorize the menu of a restaurant? Just for the meals? Oh, so silly." Bai Pi said unreservedly.

"Never mind. You'll understand later." Zhao Yingjun said tolerantly.

"I'm going to choose another restaurant to eat." Bai Pi said without any hesitation.

"I'm not. Today Boss Yuan is going to serve a new dish. How about we ask him?" Zhao Yingjun looked forward to eating here very much.

"Ok. You ask." Bai Pi was originally playing along with Zhao Yingjun anyway. Since they had been waiting for so long, how could he leave without eating anything?

"Zhou Jia, come here. What's the new dish today?" Zhao Yingjun summoned Zhou Jia to him directly.

"It's the Swedish national dish, the Roasted Pork Matched With Parsley Sauce." Zhou Jia answered mildly.

"Do you have the Fragrant Boiled Swordfish?" Bai Pi frowned and asked.

"I'm sorry, we don't have it at the moment." Zhou Jia said with an apologetic tone.

"Can you cook the dish for us? After all, your boss can cook the Swedish Meatball and Roasted Pork. The two countries aren't that far from each other, right?" Bai Pi thought for a while and then said.

In his opinion, the several places weren't very far. It was just that he suddenly wanted to eat the exotic dishes, but not these ones.

Besides, there were also meatball and roasted pork in Norway, therefore Bai Pi asked about that.

"Sorry, we only provide dishes on the menu." Zhou Jia said mildly but affirmatively.

"Ok. Two servings of the roasted pork, please." Seeing Bai Pi frown all along, Zhao Yingjun said straightway.

"I'm not quite looking forward to the dish." Bai Pi also said directly.

"Just follow my advice. Do you think I will cheat you?" Zhao Yingjun patted on his chest and said.

"No comments." Bai Pi laughed speechlessly and said.

Although the two people ridiculed each other jokingly, Bai Pi felt a little pity in his heart. He wasn't necessarily going to eat it, but

he just felt a little pity.

On the other side, Yuan Zhou carried out an ovenware, where inside, the streaky pork was sizzling with oil and making a sound of "Zi Zi".

This dish was quite simple. The main ingredient was the small potatoes while the others were three pieces of roasted streaky pork. Every piece was about the thickness of the little finger.

"Here's your dish. Please enjoy." Yuan Zhou carried the dish to Yin Ya by himself.

"It looks so good. Eating meat heartily, right?" Yin Ya was fairly interested in that.

"Um. It won't make you fat." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and then added with a low voice.

"I have a physique that never becomes fat." Yin Ya said proudly.

However, there was some worry in her beautiful eyes.

The streaky pork on the brown plate was roasted into a golden yellow color. Scattered around the roasted pork were the little potatoes, with some green leaves of parsley over it.

It looked simple and pretty that way, with an irresistible fragrance. Of course, the parsley's characteristic delicate fragrance also stimulated people's taste buds.

"Um. Please take your time and enjoy." Yuan Zhou said that before he returned to the kitchen and continued preparing the dishes.

As he cooked western-style food this time, the big pieces of streaky pork had to be processed and pickled specially and then directly roasted. Although there were only three pieces, the amount was enough.

Therefore, the customers had to cut the pork into small pieces while eating. And naturally, Yuan Zhou prepared a knife and fork

for every customer.

"Forget it. Let me first eat and then decide." Having made up her mind, Yin Ya took the knife and fork and then started to eat.

People don't like using knife and fork much at home, feeling that it was complicated to cut and then eat. Sometimes, the food would still be connected after being cut.

However, the one provided by Yuan Zhou was quite different. Although the blade looked blunt, it could easily cut the pork off.

After she stuck the knife into the small piece of pork, she picked it up and then dipped it into the cream sauce. Only after that did she stuff it directly into her mouth with a sound of "Awwoo."

Most exotic dishes used things like butter and cream. If one wasn't used to the taste, one would surely feel it to be sweet and salty at the same time. It would be terrible!

However, Yuan Zhou would also use these ingredients if he wanted to cook the very authentic Swedish dish.

But when Yin Ya dipped the pork into the cream sauce and gulped it down, she found that she had misunderstood western-style foods previously.

It's not that western-style food was bad, but those chefs that were really inferior.

As the streak pork carried the pork skin, she first ate the crisp and parched skin before going to the soft fat and the lean meat with a scorching aroma.

"Slurp slurp", it tasted quite chewy. As it was streaky pork, it also tasted soft and sticky while eating. What a wonderful taste!

There was slight saltiness in the cream sauce. The strong fragrance of the cream was blended with the characteristic delicate fragrance of the butter, instantly making the taste rich and colorful.

The saltiness of the cream didn't make people feel weird, but instead brought out the best out of the sweet cream.

It was exactly this salty taste that stimulated the intrinsic fragrance of the pork. Before one felt it to be greasy, the streaky pork would suddenly burst out the delicate fragrance of the fruits after it was stimulated by the salt.

"Is this watermelon? Why does it have the taste of watermelon?" Yin Ya was quite puzzled.

That's right. The streaky pork carried the refreshing fragrance of the watermelon as if one were eating iced watermelon in the summer. There was no sweetness in the mouth, but only the comfortable feeling that reached deep into the heart.

How strange!

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Chapter 356: The Surprise of the Foreigner

"Boss Yuan, why does the roasted pork have a faint taste of watermelon?" Yin Ya asked impatiently.

"Oh, yes, yes. It's the smell of watermelon. I was wondering just now what the taste was... So delicious.." Zhao Yingjun echoed with the roasted pork full in his mouth.

"It turns out to be the watermelon taste." Bai Pi got stupefied. Then he ate another mouthful of pork again, savoring the after-taste for a while.

"Tsk-tsk. Pork with fruit taste!" Wu Hai sighed with emotion at the side while eating whole-heartedly.

"Because the pig has eaten watermelons." To Yin Ya's question, Yuan Zhou would give answers when he was free.

"A pig that eats watermelon?" Yin Yin opened her mouth wide in surprise.

"Um." Yuan Zhou nodded his head affirmatively.

Before Yin Ya got time to say something, Wu Hai suddenly uttered at the side.

"Actually, my nickname is Little Pig." Wu Hai said deeply and earnestly. Without the pause, he continued saying.

"My zodiac animal is also the pig. Besides, my formal name is more well-known by people. It's Guangda Hierarch, namely the laudatory title of the pig."

"Of course I have my own breed. The name is Wu Pig. I love to eat watermelon."

"If I'm not wrong, the watermelon is the one used for making the watermelon juice." Wu Hai made such a long speech without any pause.

At the end of the speech, he asked Yuan Zhou while looking at

him with an extraordinarily puzzled and earnest tone.

"Yes. The remaining watermelon is recycled to be their after-meal desserts." After a nod, Yuan Zhou brought out some words that even he himself felt unbearable.

What a joke! He himself didn't even have the opportunity to eat it, hence of course he found it unbearable.

"So do you agree that you should feed me with the watermelon?" Wu Hai said immediately.

"Brother Wu, this is much too exaggerated." Yin Ya cover her mouth and wanted to laugh.

"Exactly. He has lost his sense of shame just for something to eat." Zhao Yingjun gnashed his teeth and said that at the side.

Bai Pi also nodded his head to show consent.

Not everyone could say such shameless words so deservedly.

"You don't understand. I'm telling the truth." Wu Hai looked at Yuan Zhou extraordinarily earnestly.

"What I use is the Mangalica." Yuan Zhou said positively.

"Don't you feel such a Wu Pig like me is also very superior?" Wu Hai continued to promote himself.

"No, I don't. It's still this one that is the best." Yuan Zhou looked Wu Hai up and down and then refused him again.

Wu Hai wasn't angry at all and he just stared at Yuan Zhou silently. Su Mu nevertheless uttered beside him.

"Although we know we have drunk up the essence of the watermelon, I don't think it is good to feed the pigs with the remaining parts." Su Mu said that quite earnestly, looking as if he didn't want to eat the remaining watermelon.

If he didn't say the following words, of course.

"So we customers here can all help to solve the problem. It's not

complicated at all." Su Mu referred to all customers there intelligently to be his backup.

Right at the side, Su Yuesheng nodded her head obediently.

"Yeah, we can. Even if we have eaten the core of the watermelon, it's not good to let the pigs eat the remaining part left by us." Zhao Yingjun frowned and said.

"You do that as if you are making comparisons between the pigs and us." Bai Pi stated the main point.

"But you guys are eating the pig." Yuan Zhou said quietly.

It was then that the customers who had been in discussion in the main hall came to a halt suddenly.

Almost at the same time, they all thought the same, "Boss Yuan's words make great sense. I don't even know what to answer."

As expected, Yuan Zhou was the king of awkward silence. Once he spoke, people were instantly lost in absolute silence.

Luckily, the customers were used to that and, in just a little while, they started chatting with others.

For example, they chatted about Yuan Zhou's shamelessness.

Outside of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, however, Jack was discussing about Yuan Zhou's queuing machine with Liu Hui.

"Hey. What exactly do you think this machine is?" Jack had more curiosity than average about the electronic products.

"It's probably similar to the machine in the bank." Looking at the customers that took the numbered ticket, Liu Hui said affirmatively.

"But I don't have the identification that they are swiping. What shall I do?" Jack was quite curious, but not worried at all.

Sometimes, a foreigners' identity worked better than the domestic ID card, let alone just for getting a meal.

"How about you try your passport?" Liu Hui knew that the passport worked well in banks, thus he proposed.

"No, I won't. How could this machine distinguish the passport? It's should be done by hand." Jack's cognition was same to that of most foreigners, thinking that China's machines abilities were same as its IT abilities, very ordinary.

"I think you underestimate the machine too much. Remember who was astonished by the surroundings upon deplaning?" Liu Hui broke out Jack's funny behavior unceremoniously.

Yes. When Jack first arrived and saw the metropolis, he became extraordinarily astonished.

The first word was, "F*ck. Which damn guy told me it's very poor here in China?"

After all, the impression of China in most foreigners' mind still stayed in Qing Dynasty. But now, Jack no longer thought that way.

He just hadn't changed the habit of mind immediately.

"Ok. We can try and see very soon. You know, passports have to be inspected by hand even in USA." Jack shrugged, indicating that he didn't believe that.

Though he was astonished at the real China, he wouldn't believe it was more advanced than in the USA, even if it was for such a trifle.

"Please swipe your ID card. Only in that way can you get the number ticket." It was still the four people that maintained the order.

Till now, Yuan Zhou still hadn't said he would entertain the four guys again, but they came one after another as usual whenever they were free and therefore, had already been recognized as the special order maintainers.

Since the queuing machine was put into use now, they had been

coming less frequently than before.

"Di", Liu Hui swiped his ID card cleanly and got the number.

"Use that. It definitely works." With an affirmative tone, Liu Hui revealed a decided expression on his face.

In his heart, however, he was actually praying, "Come on. Don't let me lose face. Let it be fine with just the passport."

"Alright. As you wish." After a shrug, Jack took out his passport and put it where the ID card was supposed to be swiped.

As a result, the queuing machine emitted a sound of "Di" unexceptionally and spat out a numbered paper.

It looked exactly the same to that of others, yet with a number written in English to match the number in Chinese.

"See? It works." Liu Hui revealed an "of course" expression.

"It's so miraculous! It surprisingly has English service. So interesting. May I have a look?" Jack looked at the queuing machine with a quite surprised expression.

He looked at the machine with his burning eyes as if he had wanted to dismantle it and have a look.

"Of course not. Let's go to line up." Liu Hui dragged Jack away hurriedly and didn't let him touch the machine.

After all, his hacking skills were obtained from dismantling many computers, which Liu Hui was quite clear about.

"It's the first time that I saw such a machine. Hui, do you think it can give the number in other languages?" Jack looked at the queuing machine curiously.

"I think we can ask the boss about that. It's going to be our turn very soon." Having successfully acted cool, Liu Hui crossed his arms across his chest and said happily.

Now, Liu Hui had a very nice impression of Yuan Zhou.

"Yeah, good. I can directly ask him if he could lend me the machine for research. Of course, I can study it after he gets off work." Jack said considerately.

After that, Jack dragged Liu Hui and entered the entrance impatiently.

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Chapter 357: Purchasing Power of US Dollars

"Please take your seats here." Zhou Jia guided them to the vacant seats.

"It's so small here." Jack muttered in English.

"What do you two want to eat today?" Zhou Jia went up and asked as usual.

"Hi. Menu, please?" Jack gesticulated to her.

"I'm sorry. Do you mean the menu?" Zhou Jia could only understand a little, but she was embarrassed to speak English. Thus, she asked him in Chinese slowly.

"What?" Jack was quite puzzled.

However slowly she spoke, Chinese wouldn't change to English. Therefore, Jack didn't get her at all.

"Well, what do you need?" It was likewise the first time that Zhou Jia had seen a foreigner order dishes. She was slightly nervous.

"Beauty, he's asking if you have the menu." Liu Hui couldn't bear it anymore and directly asked in Chinese.

"Yes. It's right in front of you." Zhou Jia pointed to the table smilingly.

"Ok." After a nod, Liu Hui took up the menu and asked while reading.

"What are the special dishes in your restaurant?"

"Every dish is special here. You can just choose whatever you like to eat." Zhou Jia said complacently.

"Is the Egg Fried Rice 188? What currency is it?" Seeing the price, Liu Hui raised his eyebrows slightly and asked in surprise.

"Have this country developed so quickly over the years when I'm abroad?" Liu Hui thought in the mind.

"I'm sorry. We only receive US dollars and RMB." Suddenly, Yuan Zhou went up and said that before Zhou Jia got time to answer them.

"Gee? If you receive US dollars, the price is going to be much cheaper." Liu Hui said naturally.

After that, Liu Hui told Jack about that in English.

"OK. It's great if he can receive the US dollars." Jack nodded his head contentedly.

"Alright. So what about we order the Egg Fried Rice, Translucent Beef Slices and a Roasted Pork, Jack? What do you want to eat?" Liu Hui ordered the dishes naturally like he did in other restaurants.

"I think I can eat more than that." Jack said exaggeratedly.

He took up the exquisite menu and started to order his dishes while pointing at the English content on the menu.

Speaking of which, Yuan Zhou really admired the system's foresight.

When the menu was provided, it was made in both Chinese and English. At that time, Yuan Zhou once asked the system.

"It is English, isn't it? What for?" Yuan Zhou didn't have any foreign customers in his restaurant at that time.

The system displayed, "As the future Master Chef, an English menu is a must."

"All right." Having thought for a while, Yuan Zhou believed it was indeed so and thus didn't ask anymore.

When Jack swiped his passport for the number outside just now, the system reminded Yuan Zhou about that.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou rushed over to receive the money, even though it was slightly different this time.

However, Yuan Zhou would still remind them of what they could do and couldn't do.

"Hello. In my restaurant, if you can't finish all your dishes, you'll be blacklisted automatically and can never come again." Yuan Zhou reminded them dutifully. Of course, he spoke Chinese.

"Do you have such a rule?" Liu Hui asked with much interest.

"Yes. It's right behind you on the wall." Yuan Zhou showed them the menu on the wall and said.

Liu Hui turned his head and looked toward the wall. Really, there was not only this rule, but also other rules.

"Look at this. This boss has really many rules." Liu Hui pointed at the wall and said to Jack.

"What's that?" Jack could neither spoke nor understood Chinese. Naturally, you can't expect him to read Chinese.

Liu Hui translated the rules briefly in English and then Jack understood it.

"This boss has a unique personality. I like him." Jack appreciated the rules very much, believing the boss had his own personality.

"Indeed he is." Liu Hui nodded his head.

"Help me ask him if I can take a photo." Jack took the phone and asked, being eager to have a try.

Liu Hui shook his head speechlessly, but he still turned the head and asked, "Can we take a photo of the wall?"

"Yes, as you please." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"The boss says you can take photos of whatever you like." Seeing Yuan Zhou nod his head, Liu Hui became relieved and told Jack straightforwardly.

"That's great." Jack directly went up to take photos excitedly. Moreover, he took group photos of the lotus flower and the menu as well as himself.

He finished after quite a while. Yuan Zhou asked them again, "What are your dishes?"

"What's the amount of one serving?" Liu Hui asked habitually.

"Same to the dishes served in other restaurants." Yuan Zhou said immodestly.

"Then I want the Egg Fried Rice and Translucent Beef Slices." Liu Hui kept two dishes.

"I want this and this one." Jack said affirmatively while pointing at the Roasted Pork and the Clear Broth Noodle Soup.

"Ok. Yours are 876 RMB in all. Payment comes first before the dishes." Yuan Zhou said first to Liu Hui.

When Liu Hui gave him the money, the customers beside him started a discussion.

"Boss Yuan seems to speak more than usual today," a customer said with puzzlement.

"I also feel the same. He first greeted the beauty when she came. But I can fully understand that." Another customer revealed a manner of understanding.

"Yeah. I can understand that, too. Boss Yuan is single." The next customer followed.

"But now it's merely a foreigner. Why did Boss Yuan go to greet him by himself?" Wu Hai chimed in.

"Because I'm the very first customer of this restaurant." Yin Ya broke in and explained.

"Yes, we know, we all know." The customers smiled ambiguously and nodded continuously, saying that.

"What do you know about? What?" Yin Ya slightly flushed and couldn't help saying that.

"It is fine as long as we all know." The customers roared with laughter.

"I think Boss Yuan surely isn't that kind to greet his customers in person. He definitely has some hidden purposes." With a flush on her face, Yin Ya tried to change the subject.

"Haw-haw. We also think that way." The customers were all very nice. They changed the subject as per Yin Ya's intention.

"Exactly. Such an aloof person as Boss Yuan is unlikely to be so proactive." Seeing Yuan Zhou was still there, they said with an unbelievable tone.

"What about we guess?" Wu Hai proposed.

"I don't want to guess. You want to cheat us for the liquor again." Su Mu directly reacted and said.

"No. There's no liquor now." Wu Hai had once learned cooking from Yuan Zhou for three days and understood him a lot. Relying on that, he often cheated others.

"I will not be fooled by something I'm going to know very soon." Su Mu said stoutly.

It seemed that he had been fooled a lot, therefore, he definitely wouldn't like to play with Wu Hai on that.

People guessed a lot about Yuan Zhou's purpose this time. At the other side, Yuan Zhou turned his head to Jack and said to him.

"Hello. The total price of your dishes is 1256 dollars." Yuan Zhou reported the price in one breath and then continued in the end.

"We accept bank transfer, cash, or international cards."

It sounded very professional to say that.

At the other side, however, the two people who heard the price

were greatly surprised.

Liu Hui asked straightforwardly, "The price isn't correct, is it? Is it in US dollars?"

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Chapter 358: Price Discrepancy

Liu Hui was instantly surprised and asked in disbelief, "Boss, you said the wrong price, didn't you?"

"The exchange rate of RMB to US dollars is around 6.5." Fearing that Yuan Zhou didn't know that, Liu Hui specially added.

"I know, thank you. This is just the price for you." Yuan Zhou revealed a serious expression and didn't seem to be joking.

"Boss, your price is not correct. You check it by yourself." Liu Hui took out the menu and handed it to Yuan Zhou.

"Yes. I receive RMB for our fellow countrymen and US dollars for foreigners. It's marked behind." Yuan Zhou pointed at the mark of US dollars behind that of RMB on the menu and said lightly.

"Hey, man. What do you mean? So I have to pay more than others just because I'm an American?" In the intermittent translation of Liu Hui, Jack basically understood what was happening. Thus, he said discontentedly.

"Because I'm a Chinese." Yuan Zhou shook his head and then said, "Naturally, I will offer convenience to my fellow countrymen."

Once he said that, the restaurant fell in silence instantly. His word seemed to make sense but at the same time, not make sense, making people unaware of what reactions they should make.

"This is deceitful pricing if you do that." Liu Hui said quite indignantly.

"My restaurant marks the prices of the dishes clearly." Yuan Zhou signaled him to look at the menu on the wall behind and in front of them.

[The restaurant accepts only RMB and US dollars. Foreign friends please use US dollars. The exchange rate between US dollars and

RMB is 1:1. Should you have any queries concerning the price, please keep the queries to yourself under the boss's explanation. Thank you for your cooperation. Wishing you the best.]

All these words could be summarized in one word, "This is my price. If you accept, you eat; if you don't, please leave."

After they checked, they found it really couldn't be called cheating. The Bureau of Commodity Price regulated that as long as you stated the price clearly and didn't sell by force, there was nothing to report.

But what the hell was the meaning of "Please keep the queries to yourself under the boss's explanation."? It was simply funny to say "wish them the best". They were now very unhappy.

Having been stupefied for a little while, Liu Hui said, "Then this is the price discrimination. Boss, you are discriminating against Americans." He could find nothing more to say and only said a word after quite a while.

"Not really." Yuan Zhou shook his head seriously, "I'm treating all foreign friends equally, but I just care about the feelings of my fellow countrymen more."

He treated all foreign friends equally, so the exchange rate was set 1:1. Liu Hui felt that the blue veins were standing out on his forehead.

"Jack, do you still want to eat here? I feel this boss is overcharging us." Liu Hui didn't talk to Yuan Zhou anymore. Instead, he turned his head and asked Jack.

"Yes, of course I will eat here. I don't know much about your laws, but I know we can't sue him because of that. However, if the dishes don't deserve the price, I will definitely make his restaurant bankrupt." Jack said mercilessly.

"The restaurant doesn't seem to be connected to the internet." Liu Hui looked around the restaurant and complained.

"I will make complaints level by level. He must get prepared if he wants to cheat my money." There was full of dissatisfaction in Jack's tone.

"Actually, we can go to the neighboring restaurant. It looks really nice." Liu Hui remembered the western-style restaurant that was exquisitely decorated beside this one.

"No. I will stay here to eat today." Jack fished out the wallet and took out the right amount of money.

"Hey, here's the money." Jack uttered the several words in Chinese.

Although he stumbled over them, Yuan Zhou understood him.

"One moment, please. The dishes are to be served very soon." Yuan Zhou received the US dollars with a special tray and checked solemnly before he poured them into the cash box.

Yuan Zhou was actually unable to distinguish if they were fake or not, but he had to pretend that he knew that.

"Jack, we don't need to. We can go to the other restaurant to eat." Liu Hui said helplessly.

"No, no, no. I must taste the dishes here. They are said to be very delicious on the internet." Jack's tone was full of sarcasm.

"Do we have to?" Liu Hui asked again.

"Yes." Jack nodded his head affirmatively.

Then, Liu Hui really got helpless. In his helplessness, there was also a feeling of shame.

In his opinion, Jack was an American and came to his own country for the first time, but he was surprisingly cheated on the very first meal.

It was like losing face in foreign countries and that all his fellow countrymen were cheating others.

That made Liu Hui feel very bad with Yuan Zhou.

"You'd better pray your craftsmanship could deserve the price. Otherwise, you can never settle this problem just by compensating the money." Liu Hui said to Yuan Zhou with a tough tone.

"Thank you for your care." Yuan Zhou nodded his head naturally and then went back to the kitchen to cook.

Liu Hui then got choked.

"This person is so wildly arrogant. What does he want to do to Boss Yuan?" A customer said with contempt.

"Yeah. The foreigner didn't even say anything, but this man jumped up." Another customer also said discontentedly.

"He really takes himself to be somebody. No matter how Boss Yuan receives the money, he doesn't cheat others and states the prices clearly on the menu." Other customers stood up for Yuan Zhou one after another.

It was bustling in the restaurant while outside, it was also quite boisterous.

Almost all customers knew that Boss Yuan received money like that. Most of them agreed to that while a small proportion of people felt it would result in the Beau of Commodity Price's investigation.

They didn't really mind the authority doing that. But if Yuan Zhou's restaurant suspended business, where they should go to have meals?

"Why does Boss Yuan receive money like that?" A customer asked another person beside him curiously.

"I think you are thinking too much. He's an American and of course he has to pay US dollars. If he pays RMB, it's much too cheap for him." The customer being asked directly agreed to Boss Yuan's practice recklessly.

"That makes sense. We pay a lot of money to change US dollars." The customer nodded approvingly.

"Yes. The actual purchasing power of one dollar in USA is almost same to one RMB in China." A customer sighed with emotion.

"Right. If Boss Yuan sets the USD price according to the actual exchange rate, this guy can spend only dozens of cents to eat same to us." The customer said discontentedly.

"You are right. Boss Yuan is right by doing that." Other customers echoed and nodded their head continuously.

"That reminds me of a joke. An American came to China for tour." When the customer said that, he paused a while. Seeing all were looking at him, he continued.

"It was in 2010 when this American traveled to our country. At that time, the exchange rate was 6.8. He changed 680,000 RMB with 100,000 USD."

Having slightly paused, he continued to say.

"He spent 180,000 RMB for one year and had a good time. When he went back to USA in 2011, he went to the bank to change USD. As the exchange rate rose to 5 at that time, this American changed 100,000 USD again with the remaining 500,000 RMB. When he came, he brought 1000,000 USD with him; when he went back, he still had 100,000 USD. Therefore, he went back to USA happily."

"It can't be true." Other customers felt it unbelievable.

"How can't it be true? You can calculate for yourself if it's true." The customer who was telling the story let out a humph.

"It feel that it is so unscientific." After calculating, they found it really to be true.

"There's one more story. Listen to me carefully." That customer continued to say.

"Another American heard about that and then wanted to imitate

him. He also exchanged 680,000 RMB with 100,000 USD. He used 500,000 RMB to buy an apartment and enjoyed himself with the remaining 180,000 USD."

"When he prepared to go back in the end, he directly sold the apartment as it can't be taken away. From the apartment, he got 200,000 USD only. At last, the American told me complacently that he wasn't having fun, but earning money by having fun."

"I want to swear." A customer laughed scornfully.

The customer who told the story continued saying, "Do you think it's over? Not yet. The key point is that some people are even very happy, because GDP increases."

"Although it's just a joke, I feel that Boss Yuan is right." A customer nodded his head with a smile.

"We never knew that Boss Yuan was a young cynic. I suddenly feel Boss Yuan is so awesome and have decided to order one more dish later," the customer said with a determined expression.

"How will you explain that to your girlfriend," someone asked faintly beside him.

"Our friendship ends now." He turned his head indignantly, indicating that he didn't want to talk to anybody.

Unconsciously, Yuan Zhou received a pile of Nice Guy Cards again. Besides, the method of receiving money created much of a stir on the internet...

Chapter 359: A New Activity

This matter was soon made known throughout the internet. There were positive and negative comments concerning Yuan Zhou.

This matter was first publicized in the previous foodie forum by the Gourmet Backup Group.

Then, the forum was filled with various comments.

[Honestly speaking, I feel that it really appeases our anger. But Boss Yuan's practice was a little deceitful,] from I'm A Passer-by.

[I hate that. Boss Yuan is going to cause problems. It will be an international discord,] from Cause Big Problems.

[Exactly. What about Boss Yuan apologizing,] from Little Cute Novelty.

[The silly boss is discriminating his customers. Be cautious that someone will sue him. Ho Ho, let's just wait and see,] from Make a Complaint.

[USD? If the price is 6 times higher, you just wait for the Bureau of Commodity Price to come and inspect.] from Lei Hong is Somebody.

[Is this patriotism? Please don't make trouble for our country.] from Life In Every Second.

[One has to be particular about the way to show patriotism. Self-righteousness is not the way. It's simply a silly thinking.] from Bi Bi Li Bi Li.

[I feel Boss Yuan is so funny, although he has always been very funny.] from Le Sheng Yi Xia.

In the long succession of comments, few people agreed to Yuan Zhou's practice while most people attacked him in speech.

Even if there were only a few people that were in favor of him,

they felt Yuan Zhou was overdoing it and thus didn't like him.

"Why are these people so mean to Boss Yuan? I feel that he is very nice." While reading the web page, Man Man pouted and complained discontentedly.

In her opinion, Yuan Zhou wasn't deceitful at all by doing that. In many scenic spots, local residents could enjoy it for half price or even visited it for free as long as they had the ID cards. Then, how about that?

"How could these people be so mean? It's obviously not deceitful. Any difference between native residents and foreigners can be called discrimination?" Man Man was quite unhappy when she saw the comments.

She continued to read and found more aggressive comments and some people even started personal attacks.

"Ho Ho. If you are not happy to see so, why don't you go to make complaints against those who live near the scenic spots and visit for free?" Man Man pounded on the table angrily and said loudly.

"What's wrong?" His customers that were making the cake themselves asked curiously.

After all, they had never seen Man Man be so angry. Even if some of them failed in making the cake after ten or twenty times, they hadn't seen her behave like that.

"Never mind. I was enraged by some people on the internet." Man Man turned her head and explained.

Man Man was very angry, but she still continued to read the comments.

Checking forums were just like that. Even you trembled all over with rage, you couldn't help but continued to check it.

She pressed F5 to update the forum and then found a new comment, which was also about the matter in Yuan Zhou's

restaurant. Not long after it was posted, it had been replied by many.

[A few personal opinions. I don't think this boss is wrong and it seems to be not about patriotism. I don't know how those people relate the matter to that. He just arranges different people into a few groups.]

[Just like some areas who offer district preferential protection policies. It's just all our fellow countrymen that enjoy them this time.]

[I know many people would say it is brainlessly patriotic. But frankly speaking, it's not.]

[But if it's a brainless patriotic deed, why would he set such a high price? If I couldn't even afford the dishes, what's the meaning of doing that?]

[It's no more than a consensual matter as the price has been clearly stated. As for what the boss is like, I won't comment. After all, I couldn't afford the dishes, no matter if it's in RMB or USD.]

It was a long post with the ID of the person "I'm A Nice Guy; No Need For Thanks".

"Now that's the way. Finally there's a righteous man." Man Man became so happy that she pounded on the table again.

That made her customers nearby asked her again.

As she felt better now, Man Man explained again to her customers with a smile.

In Yuan Zhou's restaurant, however, the dishes ordered by Liu Hui and Jack had been carried to them.

Without speaking anything, the two people took the dinnerware and started to eat.

Once the established customers saw Yuan Zhou became idle, Wu Hai opened his mouth.

The several regular customers had a lot to say. After all, they had never expected Yuan Zhou to do so. Each of them had his own thoughts.

However, it was Wu Hai that uttered the first.

"Boss Yuan, you are fairly patriotic." There was teasing tone in Wu Hai's words.

"Yeah. I never thought Boss Yuan is such a person." Su Mu spoke with a rare seriousness.

"Patriotic?" Yuan Zhou didn't react immediately.

"Yeah, you are." Wu Hai raised his eyebrows toward Liu Hui and Jack beside them.

"Oh, not really." Yuan Zhou said squarely.

"Then what is that?" Su Mu asked directly.

Other customers nearby all strained their ears and started to listen carefully.

Customers outside were stunned at the unproved rumors told by that person just now, but others that had their meal inside weren't.

"It's very simple. The first customer that ate in my restaurant was from you guys; the first repeat customer is from you guys and the first customer that cursed me behind is also from you guys. Well, I know that you often curse me. Nothing more." Yuan Zhou said indifferently but he emphasized on the matter of cursing.

However, it was obviously neglected by his customers.

Other things that were left unsaid were understood by Wu Hai.

He lived across the street. And the moment Yuan Zhou opened the restaurant, he noticed it. Therefore, he knew most happenings in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

That's why Wu Hai drew the painting of People Passing by A Small Restaurant and moreover drew it so well that everyone

could find themselves in the painting.

"That indeed makes sense. You can make a profit only with that price." Wu Hai remembered something behind every delicious dish.

Those exquisite food ingredients behind the delicious dishes were definitely the best.

Take the watermelon juice for example, the price of 88 USD wasn't expensive at all, if Yuan Zhou's food ingredients and way of cooking were taken into consideration.

"Well! I have to say yes." Su Mu nodded his head.

Everybody could tell differences between inferior things and superior ones. They were like those who lived near the scenic spots now.

Because they chose to come here for meals when Yuan Zhou hadn't enjoyed so much fame. They even did something more than that.

With such rules, it was like offering welfare to everybody. It's just that the welfare covered all the countrymen.

"Patriotism is bigger than fact. It's no more than being yourself. It seems that Boss Yuan is still so capricious and doesn't mind the consequence of the matter at all," Su Yuesheng suddenly said that.

"You must be joking. If Boss Yuan cared about what others thought, he's definitely not Compass."

"You guys changed the subject. We are talking about Boss Yuan," a customer said jokingly.

"Exactly, I always feel a little flustered when I get privileges from Boss Yuan." A customer patted on his chest and said that with an expression of disbelief.

"Me, too. Boss Yuan, you have a plot, don't you?" Wu Hai was quite alert.

"There's an activity that you guys can take part in." Yuan Zhou said positively.

"Activity? You are not talking about discounts, right?" Su Mu was quite excited.

Anyhow, he knew about the matter of offering discounts. As long as he heard about activities, he thought of that immediately.

"Boss Yuan, I always support you, unless you want to take days off to rest?" Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches and said affirmatively.

"Yeah, I approve your plan as long as you don't take days off." A customer beside him waved his hand and said generously.

Seeing everybody talk about the activity, Yuan Zhou became relieved. Regarding the charge, he had implemented it firmly and identified with it, but he was still a little perturbed.

However, the customers could see nothing from Yuan Zhou's expressionless face...

Chapter 360: Why Am I So Awesome

"What kind of activity? Tell us, Boss Yuan." Su Mu said first.

"A very simple activity." Yuan Zhou thought for a while and said in a few words.

At that time, Yuan Zhou appeared rather solemn with his face taut.

It helped a lot to practice this expression in the mirror every day.

As a result, he didn't reveal any nervousness at all.

Speaking of which, this was all because of the system.

Just as Yuan Zhou had some free time, the system suddenly released a mission.

The system displayed, "A surprise mission. Do you want to take it?"

"You have just cheated me. Are you addicted to that?" Yuan Zhou complained expressionlessly.

The system displayed, "Do you want to take it or not?"

"Is there any reward?" Yuan Zhou kept silent for a while and then asked.

The system displayed, "Yes."

"Tsk-tsk. Such a blunt answer. But you are much too deceitful. I request to check the mission." While looking at the answer of the system, Yuan Zhou said more affirmatively.

The system displayed, "The mission is available to be checked."

[Surprise Mission] A completion of a challenge would enable you to get a reward.

(Mission tips: The content of the activity is "Why am I so awesome?". After the mission commences, please collect the customers' opinions by various means. The quantity is 10,000

pieces.) "Is this mission really useful?" Yuan Zhou was quite suspicious that it was another different system.

The missions released by the system were basically about being a chef. If not, it was about how to form good habits to become a master chef.

It had never released such a ridiculous mission. It was simply absurd.

The system displayed, "By doing that, it can mold your character."

"What kind of character? The character of 'Why am I so awesome?'" Yuan Zhou couldn't help but mutter to himself, although he looked like a neurotic by doing that.

The system displayed, "The reward will be generous."

"Then what exactly is the mission about?" Yuan Zhou felt the mission itself was quite weird.

Seeing the system say so, however, Yuan Zhou still read on subconsciously and only then did he see the reward of the mission.

After all, the mission was way too weird.

"Wow, a nice reward." Yuan Zhou said while looking at the reward in a restrained manner.

The reward of the system was a new dish, which was quite interesting on the aspects of both the cooking method and the eating method.

"By the way, my customers must get a reward from participating the activity. What's that?" Yuan Zhou looked carefully at it and then asked.

The system displayed, "The reward of the activity is a delicious meal at the restaurant."

"A delicious meal in the restaurant? A new dish?" Yuan Zhou asked subconsciously.

The system displayed, "Customers can taste any dish in the restaurant once for free. They can order the dishes."

"Order a dish for free?" Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled.

The system displayed, "The expenses of the free meal will be deducted from the cash box."

Yuan Zhou stared at the explanation for at least three times and then asked, "So you mean that I have to pay the money, right?"

The system displayed, "You can comprehend it that way."

"I don't want the mission anymore." Yuan Zhou said cleanly and neatly without any hesitation.

The system displayed, "After the mission is completed, you can receive the reward."

"But I don't want the mission." Yuan Zhou said naturally.

The system was lost in silence for quite a long while this time. The silence was so long that the system didn't appear again until Yuan Zhou finished cooking another dish and carried it out.

The system displayed, "Host, aren't you satisfied with the reward?"

"No, it's very good and I like it very much." Yuan Zhou said calmly.

The system displayed, "Then why are you refusing it?"

It should be the first time that the system asked about the reason for Yuan Zhou's refusal. Of course, it was also the first time that Yuan Zhou had refused the mission.

"Never think of letting me treat others." Yuan Zhou said that quite decidedly, without any room for maneuver.

"Of course, I will never treat others unless I die." Yuan Zhou added.

If the system had sentiments, it would surely reply him with

"mentally retarded".

How would a dead man treat others? And besides, how could he be sooooo stingy?

This time, the system kept silent for a much longer while. About 10 minutes.

The system displayed, "All the food ingredients of the rewarded dish this time will be provided by the system for free."

The words of "for free" were greatly emphasized and marked.

"System, do you think I should advertise on the internet or directly hang it by the door?" The moment Yuan Zhou noticed the two words of "for free", he corrected himself immediately.

The correction was made so quickly that he directly started to ask about matters concerning the subject.

"Of course, I will arrange that in a moment. System, you are way too polite." Yuan Zhou said primly.

As if he had been refused when he wanted to treat others.

"I'm embarrassed to say that. But there's definitely no restrictions on any particular dish since I stand treat." Yuan Zhou asked tentatively.

However, the system might have been stunned by Yuan Zhou's shamelessness and thus couldn't say anything.

It made no reaction.

"Sigh. I believe I am the only person that's so generous and can treat others without a reason." Yuan Zhou patted his chest quite proudly and then said.

As for where the mysterious confidence came, it was unknown to others.

Therefore, the activity mentioned by Yuan Zhou came into being.

"It's a voting activity. Are you interested in taking part in it?"

Yuan Zhou asked seriously.

Then Yuan Zhou introduced the rules briefly. Of course, it happened after the lunch time ended.

"Yes, of course. But even if I have been clear about the rules, what's the content of the activity?" Wu Hai asked curiously.

"I want to know what the reward is." Su Mu was persistent in the reward.

"A simple activity? No one wants to guess?" A customer proposed.

"No. I still want to know about the reward and the content. After all, Boss Yuan still didn't get to the point after such a long speech," another customer shrugged and said discontentedly.

The reason why Yuan Zhou said so concisely was also very simple. It was two totally different things to say "Why am I so awesome?" by words and in written form.

Yuan Zhou admitted himself to be a very shy and modest man. Before he said that by himself, he needed some psychological preparations.

"All these are what I want to ask," the remaining customers added smilingly.

Except for the USD matter that happened previously, the entire lunch time was quite harmonious.

Liu Hui and Jack, the leading roles of the matter, left silently after they finished the meal, not taking a look at Yuan Zhou again or saying anything else.

While Yuan Zhou was still hesitant about the activity, however, Jack had posted on Facebook and narrated the matter briefly.

[I have located the so-called small restaurant of delicious dishes and done the taste test. The taste is irreproachable and I could only shut my mouth and concentrate on eating.]

[But I don't recommend you guys to go to eat there.]

Then, he posted the address, the decorations, and the surrounding inside of Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

After he posted on Facebook, Jack was still very angry. While he was walking, he started to log in the foodie forum.

The content of his post was still same to that in the Facebook. On the forum, the several words of "Not recommending everybody to go to eat there" was bold and made in red.

Jack went to reply every post in the forum with such content.

The core idea of them was that he didn't recommend others to go there although the dishes were so delicious.

Chapter 361: Attraction of The Reward

The attention on Jack's Facebook was quite a lot. Once he posted that, many people gave likes or commented below.

All of them were basically inquiring how was his mood and nothing more. However, the forum was different.

This post stating that he knew the address was immediately commented on and pinned to the very first place of the forum. It was quite a different thing between the dishes being delicious and whether or not he would recommend others to come here.

"How are you doing?" Liu Hui asked him with a caring tone when he saw Jack typing on the phone continuously.

"I'm good. Can't be better," Jack said ferociously.

"Jack, let's go to make a complaint against the restaurant." Liu Hui turned his head, taking a look at Yuan Zhou's restaurant and then said affirmatively.

"No need." Jack shook his head, with his golden hair swaying in the air.

"Why?" Sometimes, Liu Hui didn't really understand what this friend of his was thinking.

For example, he could have left and not eaten there in the restaurant, but in the end, he stayed.

Liu Hui had always felt very embarrassed, even if he was eating the most delicious dishes that left him unforgettable memories about the taste and texture. He hadn't felt so embarrassed while eating, but after the meal, all the embarrassment gathered together around him again.

That made Liu Hui very anxious to leave. However, Jack only left there after the meal and even wiped his mouth.

He appeared quite calm.

"Because he won't be popular." Jack shrugged. While he was typing on the phone, he said with a relaxed tone.

"Um?" Liu Hui answered with puzzlement.

"I will never tell others about his address and publicize for him," Jack said affirmatively.

Liu Hui reached over him and took a glimpse at the forum. Just as expected, there was no address and no specific country mentioned in the post.

"Then why do you post it?" Liu Hui pointed at Jack's phone and said.

"To curse him," Jack said earnestly.

"Alright. Do you go back to the hotel directly?" After a nod, Liu Hui said nothing more, but just asked straightforwardly.

"Yes." Jack nodded his head, with his hands busying on the phone.

Yuan Zhou had no idea of that. The way he used to attract the hatred seemed to have failed and he was still preparing for it quietly.

After all, Yuan Zhou admitted himself as a low-profile man. He still needed to make some preparations to say the word requested by the system.

"A man both awesome and of low profile is nobody but me." Yuan Zhou sighed heavily in his heart.

"Boss Yuan, what's the activity? Just tell us." Su Mu stroked his peach blossom eyes and said elegantly.

"Why do I have an illusion that Zheng Jiawei is here when I hear your voice?" Wu Hai suddenly said that.

"Ho Ho. If you make your living relying on me, I will definitely beat you to death." Su Mu made a gesture of pinching him to death and said with a smile.

"You think more than necessary." Wu Hai turned his head and didn't even look at him.

"Boss, I want to know what the activity is." Su Yuesheng looked at Yuan Zhou with her big eyes widely open.

"Actually, I want you guys to write down your opinions about me in order to rate me..." Even before Yuan Zhou could finish the sentence, he was interrupted by Wu Hai.

"No need to bother that much. I can tell you right now that you are deceitful, a very deceitful man. This is my evaluation." Wu Hai said straightway and positively.

"The evaluation can be made in written forms, or you can send it to me through the private message of the microblog." Having ignored Wu Hai, Yuan Zhou said directly.

"Write the comments about you bluntly?" Su Yuesheng asked curiously.

"No. I mean that you should write something about why I am so awesome." When Yuan Zhou said that, he slightly frowned and his face was tightly taut; his tone was quick and affirmative, and his voice was fairly loud.

It was obviously a manner of being nervous. However, the tightly taut face made others feel that Yuan Zhou said it quite naturally.

"Eh..."

Therefore, Su Yuesheng was stunned by that immediately.

Even the talkative guy Wu Hai stopped everything and looked at Yuan Zhou unbelievably.

The expression on his face was obviously like "Are you f*cking kidding me?"

"Ho Ho." Su Mu was directly made speechless.

"Well, boss, are you asking us why you are so awesome?" Su Yuesheng thought over about the wording slightly and then asked.

"This is the content." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Brother, didn't you say we have to go back home?" Su Yuesheng turned her head decidedly and said to Su Mu.

"Yes. We are leaving now." Su Mu reacted immediately and dragged his sister, preparing to leave.

Including Wu Hai, who had been looking at Yuan Zhou with a gaze of "Are you stupid?" at the side. He also prepared to leave.

Yuan Zhou continued, "If anybody is lucky enough to be chosen, they will get a reward of a meal. My treat."

This time, Yuan Zhou brought that out immodestly.

He had totally forgotten that the meal was treated by the system and also forgotten his reluctance of treating others when he first heard that.

Instead, he said that righteously. The moment he finished saying that, all people halted their footsteps.

"I actually feel Boss Yuan has abundant reasons to be so awesome." Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches and said shamelessly.

"No, no, no. Boss Yuan, you totally don't understand where your fascination lies." Su Mu turned around sharply and then said while squinting his peach blossom eyes.

"Boss, actually I also feel you are quite handsome." Su Yuesheng said cutely with a blush on her face.

"Um. Thanks for your compliments. Please send it to my microblog. There will be a vote. Whoever gets the most votes wins." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and received so many compliments.

"No problem. But can we order whatever we want to eat?" Wu Hai carried a big smile on his face when he asked that, as if he were just asking randomly.

Of course, it would be more real without his fervent gaze.

"Yes." Yuan Zhou was very well-versed in utilizing the system's generosity.

"Um. I'm leaving now." Wu Hai nodded his head contentedly and then left the restaurant.

Su Mu and Su Yuesheng also left quickly and prepared to post on the microblog after going back into the car.

Just in a little while, all the people left.

Yuan Zhou took out his phone and began to edit the content of the microblog.

[Why am I so awesome?]

The content was very simple. It was exactly the sentence required by the system.

"Hoo... Fortunately, I don't need to say it." Yuan Zhou took his phone and let out a sigh of relief.

"I'm a man of low profile and modesty." Yuan Zhou stroked his face and prepared to put away his phone while muttering, "I become more handsome now."

At that time, his phone emitted a sound of "Di".

It was the reply to his post on the microblog.

"Jiang Changxi? She's so quick in replying me." Yuan Zhou checked and found it was Jiang Changxi.

Changxi, [Because you will die early.]

The answer was so damn right.

"This venomous-mouthed woman!" Yuan Zhou stroked his own forehead and became a little speechless.

Just when he prepared to turn off the beef, his phone rang again.

This time, the message was from Ling Hong.

The First Generation Tycoon of the Second Generation Tycoons. Ling Hong's ID conformed to his identity very well.

His comment was only a word.

The First Generation Tycoon of the Second Generation Tycoons, [However awesome you are, you are not as awesome as me.]

"I'm a first generation tycoon and not a second generation tycoon." Yuan Zhou lifted up his clothes and said proudly while looking at his abdominal muscles.

"Di Di". The phone rang again.

Meng Meng, [Boss Yuan, you should take a rest rather than write such a message if you are tired of cooking new dishes. People who don't know you well would want to beat you to death.]

This time, Meng Meng's words were a little longer, but she just meant that Yuan Zhou should go to a doctor if he didn't feel good and not post the microblogs carelessly.

Such a matter would never work well without Chen Wei.

[Boss Yuan, we can practice sparring with each other. Then, you'll know why I'm so awesome.]

Chapter 362: Beef Wellington

The post on Boss Yuan's microblog instantly created a real buzz in the circle of foodies.

After all, the words were so striking and unbearable.

Of course, it was only believed by Yuan Zhou himself. Actually, everyone wanted to beat Yuan Zhou to death except several people who knew the inside information.

The words immediately reminded them of Yuan Zhou's leave request notice.

The mission regarding the foreigners was still temporarily incomplete and Yuan Zhou was prepared to carry out this one at the same time.

That way, he could get two rewards when they were both finished. Yuan Zhou understood this point well.

"Shua Shua Shua", Yuan Zhou was writing something very quickly.

In just a little while, Yuan Zhou took out the LED writing panel that he had used when offering discounts and then placed it at the door.

Once the panel was lighted up, the several words of "Why am I so awesome?" appeared extremely conspicuous.

Below that were some small words introducing this activity while the even smaller ones were explanations about the reward.

It was good that Yuan Zhou traced them in red. However, with the colorful lighting plus the various colored words...

It was too beautiful and nobody dared to look at it.

Yuan Zhou was happily waiting for the mission to be completed. Speaking of which, no one knew when Yuan Zhou obtained a weird habit of self-comfort. Li Li, nevertheless, was also quite

delighted at his side.

"Head chef, do you need some rest?" The chief chef stroked his fat belly and asked carefully.

"No need. How is your work in preparing the steak?" Li Li stood there earnestly.

In front of him was a basin of batter in light yellow emitting a faint fragrance.

"Don't worry, head chef. It's already well prepared. The acid removing work of the beef has also been finished," the chief chef patted his chest and said confidently.

"Good." Li Li nodded his head, indicating that he got it.

The chief chef then became helpless. His plump face wrinkled up so much that it almost became a steamed bun.

Because for the past two days, Li Li had always stayed in the kitchen. He seldom left and was working quite carefully and earnestly.

All that was nevertheless bearable, but he just did everything by himself and occasionally, he even arranged the kitchen staff to go out and ask about the customers' feelings of the dishes.

"Little Ding, you must make sure the mushrooms used are the same size and shape. What's the problem with these several pieces?" Li Li pointed at some white mushrooms he picked out and asked seriously.

"I'll get them changed right now." The sous chef that was called Little Ding answered bluntly. He didn't defend himself at all, but just obeyed him.

"Um. No more chances to be so careless." Li Li was originally very sturdy. When he was solemn, he even appeared a little frightening.

"Who's in charge of the eggs today?" Li Li walked to a pile of eggs and asked irritably.

"It's me, head chef." A young man stood out and answered with a perturbed manner.

"I told you at the very beginning that we can't use the chilled eggs. They must be very fresh eggs. Didn't you understand me?" Li Li didn't scold him, but said equally offensively.

"But these are all very fresh." The young man retorted with a low voice.

"I say they must be the freshest eggs." Li Li stared at him and said word by word.

The young chef was instantly stunned. He had never seen Li Li behave so.

"Yes, of course. Don't worry, head chef. We'll get them changed right away." The chief chef moved his fat body forward and said smilingly.

"Hey, you brat. Go to the warehouse and change them now." the chief reached out his big hands and pushed the young man directly.

"Ok, ok. I'll go now." Only then did the young man react and run away while taking a big basin of eggs.

As if so many eggs had no weight at all.

"Head chef, there's still one hour left before we start to cook the steak. Why don't we go to have some rest?" Seeing Li Li not stop the young man leaving, the chief chef proposed again.

"If we want to guarantee the deliciousness of the steak, we can't be careless at all about the preliminary preparations." Li Li glanced at the chief chef and then continued to make an inspection tour, even if it was only 9:00 in the morning.

"Alright. I'm also going to make preparations." The chief chef let out a sigh privately and continued to prepare for the steak.

He was slightly helpless. The chief chef knew why Li Li was so

careful this time. Thinking of the reason, he couldn't help but sigh more.

"We are all chefs. Why does that damn evil monster appear? How do we, old chefs, continue to make a living with him nearby?" the chief chef muttered to himself with a low voice.

That's right. He was talking about Yuan Zhou. The reason why Li Li became so harsh was also because of Yuan Zhou.

More specifically, because of an appraisal.

On the day before yesterday, when the foreigner went to Yuan Zhou's restaurant, Li Li officially served his signature dish, the Beef Wellington.

He had expected this dish would receive plenty of praise. As a matter of fact, it was indeed so in the morning.

This gorgeous and well-known Britain cuisine indeed received people's high praise.

Until the man in a suit, who had been the first person blacklisted by Yuan Zhou's restaurant, brought Ling Hong to the restaurant.

"It's much better than that damn shabby restaurant." Once he sat down, he sighed with emotion.

"I don't feel that way." Only three buttons of Ling Hong's shirt were done up, which made him appear a little uninhibited. When he heard that, he only answered lightly.

"What do you want to eat today? My treat." The man was totally opposite of Ling Hong. His business suit was buttoned up to the top.

"Whatever you like. You decide. Let's just finalize the matter." Ling Hong waved his hand, indicating that he didn't mind what to eat.

"What's the recommended dish today?" the man turned his head and asked the waitress standing beside them.

"Yes. We have the special meal Beef Wellington prepared by our head chef today. Would you like some?" the waitress asked softly.

"Um. Three servings, please." The man said lightly.

"Ok. One moment, please. Three servings of Beef Wellington will be served in no time." After a nod, the waitress took notes and repeated for confirmation.

"Han Shan, why are you still like that." Ling Hong frowned.

There were only two of them. Han Shan ordered three servings obviously to taste a serving and then eat the other serving.

"No choice, that's me." The man, namely Han Shan, straightened the cuff and said earnestly.

"Forget it. Let's get to the proper business." Ling Hong had to let it go helplessly, even if he hated to see Han Shan's wasteful deeds.

"Ok." With a nod, Han Shan sat straight and then started to talk with him.

Shortly afterwards, their dishes were carried to them. As usual, Han Shan tasted one serving and ate the other serving with his own dinnerware.

The two people spoke while having meal. At the other side, however, Li Li came to them personally as an entire serving of steak was left uneaten.

Of course, Li Li only came over when they finished the meal and prepared to leave.

"Hi, sir. I'm the head chef. May I ask if you are satisfied with the dishes today?" Wearing a white chef's uniform, Li Li stood in front of them and asked mildly.

"Very nice craftsmanship. The color is beautiful and the taste is quite strong." Han Shan said with satisfaction.

"Not bad." Ling Hong nevertheless said simply.

"May I bother to ask if you two will choose this restaurant to eat again?" Li Li was very confident when he asked.

Because he realized that it should be a habit for them to order one serving and taste it. It actually had nothing to do with the taste.

"Of course." "No."

Ling Hong and Han Shan answered with one accord while looking at each other.

"If it's convenient for you, please do tell me what we should do to improve the dishes," Li Li remained calm and asked as usual.

Not until he heard Ling Hong's word did Li Li's expression start to change. Could it be like that?

These were Ling Hong's words, "..."

Chapter 363: Contest Commences

"If it's convenient for you, please do give us your precious opinions so that we can make it better next time." Li Li said earnestly.

"It's very simple. Because the service, surroundings and dishes are all good here in your restaurant, but they are still a little distance from the best." Ling Hong was never the kind of person who would speak considerately.

Li Li was stunned for an instant, but he soon reacted and asked, "Do you mean you don't like the taste?"

"No. The taste is not bad, like he said." Ling Hong pointed to Han Shan beside him and said.

"Then?" Li Li controlled his slightly changed expression and asked calmly.

"It's no more than being not bad." Ling Hong shrugged.

"Ok. Thank you for your precious opinions." Li Li then left with a smile. But once he turned around, he couldn't control his expression anymore.

"You really comment harshly. I feel the taste is very good." Han Shan turned his head and said.

"No. It's just the truth," Ling Hong said indifferently.

"Ho Ho. Your truth is in favor of that restaurant?" Han Shan said bluntly.

"I think you know I'm not that kind of person." Ling Hong said seriously.

"Ok, got it. So the matter is finalized. We just need to sign it tomorrow." Han Shan nodded his head and changed the subject.

"Got it. Bye." Ling Hong waved his hand and then walked out of the western style restaurant first.

"Young guys nowadays..." Han Shan sighed with emotion.

When he walked to his own car, he took a look at Yuan Zhou's restaurant subconsciously.

It was also a novel and disagreeable feeling for him when he had been blacklisted first.

Therefore, Han Shan had never paid attention to Yuan Zhou's restaurant ever since then. He looked at the long line of customers at the entrance and the unchanged door and then couldn't help but say, "It's still as shabby as before."

That's right. In Han Shan's opinion, it should at least have a shop sign since it was so famous. But until now, there still wasn't any.

The two people both left smartly, unlike Li Li.

Especially since he specifically went to ask the customers that had eaten in Yuan Zhou's restaurant, he became more depressed now.

Basically, every customer didn't intend to compare the two restaurants. They were very surprised when they heard he wanted them to make a comparison.

But as long as he didn't talk about Yuan Zhou's restaurant, they responded to him well.

That made the proud man, Li Li, unable to accept the fact. Therefore, Li Li started to control everything starting from the source.

"I can make it even more perfect." Li Li said to himself affirmatively.

He intended to ensure everything was perfect in every aspect, so the kitchen wouldn't be as easygoing as previously in the recent days.

Yuan Zhou had no idea about Li Li's feelings at all, but the contest that he had agreed to take part in was about to commence.

The contest wasn't that easy as described by Yan Jia. However, Lee Yan Yi requested that he not tell everything to Yuan Zhou.

This contest was to distinguish precious ingredients and it concerned the fame and gains of the masters of different styles of cooking.

Of course, it was also a significant event to the contestants that participated.

With Lee Yan Yi's sharp tone and bad temper, he certainly had some fellow peers that could not bear the sight of him.

However, he had a really sensitive taste, like an emperor. He knew whatever he placed in his mouth, which provided him with the great fame.

Another chef who regarded Lee Yanyi as his life-long rival and was meanwhile also a gourmet, was inquiring about the person Lee Yanyi recommended this time.

At their ages, they were unlikely to participate the contest personally. They only recommended the young that they believed to be good.

Defeating the person recommended by Lee Yanyi was equal to defeating himself. At least, Xing Min thought that way.

"Did the old guy Yan recommend anyone this time?" Xing Min leafed through the new assessment information of the chefs and asked indifferently.

Lee Yanyi hadn't recommended anybody for three times, therefore Xing Min just asked that due to his obsession.

"This time, Mr. Lee recommended a chef. His name is Yuan Zhou." His assistant beside him immediately turned to Yuan Zhou's information and answered earnestly.

"Oh. Same as before." Xing Min answered habitually.

The office was suddenly lost in silence. Abruptly, Xing Min

shouted vigorously, "What? That old guy recommended a person?"

"Yes, sir. It's a chef called Yuan Zhou." The assistant pushed the glasses upward calmly and said clearly.

"Why did this old guy suddenly recommend a chef silently this time? Yuan Zhou? Who is he?" Xing Min stood up and muttered while walking around.

Taking Yuan Zhou's information, the assistant stood there silently for quite a while before Xing Min calmed down and got himself seated again in his chair.

"Tell me something about this Yuan Zhou." Xing Min drank some water and said calmly.

"Yuan Zhou, male, 24. He opened a small restaurant in Taoxi Road and is said to have very good craftsmanship and booming business. However, he doesn't have any learning experiences from any famous teachers or institutions, nor does he have any certificates as a symbol of status." The assistant took the information and read carefully.

The Chef Certificates issued by National Labor and Social Security Authority had different levels from bottom to top, Beginner-Intermediate Chef, Intermediate Chef, Senior Chef, Technician and Senior Technician. Unfortunately, Yuan Zhou had none of them.

"Is that all?" Xing Min waited for a while and when he found his assistant spoke no more, he frowned and asked.

"Yes. That's all." The assistant nodded his head.

"He's really a damn foolish decrepit guy. Surprisingly recommending a person unknown to anybody. Did he intend to defeat me this way?" Xing Min stroked his short beard and laughed at Lee Yanyi.

"Sir, as far as I know, Mr. Lee often went there for meals," the assistant added timely.

"He would surely often give special favor to that young chef, wouldn't he?" Xing Min patted on the table with his big hands as if he had known something.

"Please check, sir." The assistant set Yuan Zhou's information down in front of Xing Min.

"Doesn't he have more information? Fairly interesting." Xing Min was not afraid of Lee Yanyi, but was just on the alert.

"Yes. That is all." The assistant nodded his head.

"It's surprisingly an unknown person. Does the old guy really think everybody is like the talented chef Chu Xiao?" Xing Min said with contempt.

"Give me my phone. Let me call Chu Xiao. It seems he needs to participate in the contest this time." After Xing Min's words of contempt, he instructed the assistant at the side.

"Your phone, sir." The assistant took his phone and handed it to Xing Min.

Chu Xiao, who was mentioned by Xing Min, was really like his name. It might not be proper to call him anti-hero as his name indicated, but he was absolutely an extremely talented and awesome figure.

He was extraordinarily talented in culinary skills ever since he was very young. He had entered the kitchen of a Michelin two-star hotel to study for one year when he was 11 years old.

At 13, he officially obtained the Certificate of The International Senior Technician. By now, he was 26 and had been a chef in a Michelin three-star hotel.

Of course, he was less than 20 when he got the appellation, therefore he was the youngest Michelin three-star chef.

One must acknowledge that his mum really did well in naming him.

"Kai Wen, I have told you the water used to wash rice must be from Chun Rice and only the water for the third time can be used. Only in that way, the mutton can have the taste of sweet dew after washing."

It was Chu Xiao. He kept a semi-long hairstyle and was wearing a hat. Although he appeared careless and casual, he spoke fairly solemnly.

"I'm sorry. As I didn't find Chun Rice, I replaced it with the top-quality rice." Kai Wen was a serious-looking middle-aged man. He lowered his head and said with a low voice when he heard that.

"So you replaced it with something else randomly when you can't find it?" Chu Xiao said lightly, "I have a suggestion that you take off your hat and clothes and walk out of the kitchen right now."

Other chefs in the kitchen just did their own work respectively. They didn't even dare to raise their head and take a look, let alone break in.

"Ok, Mr. Chu."

Silently, Kai Wen took off his hat and chef's uniform and then left...

Chapter 364: The Strange Actions of Broth

The kitchen was still as quiet as usual and everybody was doing their work separately. There were no raised heads to look around.

As if they were just indifferent to that. However, the middle-aged man had been working in the kitchen for quite a long time and hence had a fairly good relationship with others.

But Chu Xiao's word received no dissent. His prestige was known to be unbelievably high.

"I need the results within one hour." Having tidied up his chef's hat, Chu Xiao turned around and walked back to his own office.

He had just arrived at his office when his phone rang inside.

The sound of "Ling Ling Ling" was quite grating on the ear.

Chu Xiao frowned slightly as he didn't like to answer the phone during the working time.

But when he saw the number, Chu Xiao still answered it.

"Hello." He said simply after he answered.

At the other end of the phone was naturally Xing Min.

"It's me. Xing Min." Xing Min understood the temper of Chu Xiao, thus he reported his identity first.

"Um, what's the matter?" Chu Xiao nodded his head.

"How do you feel about the contest?" Xing Min asked his purpose directly without beating around the bush.

"Teacher, a contest that I can surely win can't be called contest. Putting it nicely, it's a game; putting it harshly, it's just a mere formality," Chu Xiao said naturally.

"Not necessarily this time." The tone of Xing Min was also very natural.

That's right. Chu Xiao had once studied under Xing Min. Three

months later, however, Xing Min had nothing more to teach him.

Xing Min had already been an honor chef. Even so, his skill was all learned by Chu Xiao within three months.

However, Xing Min felt that it wasn't good for a man to be fearless. Therefore, he said that on purpose.

"Really?" Chu Xiao was a little more interested.

After all, it wasn't the first time that Xing Min had looked for competitors for him. Most of them could not withstand a single blow while occasionally some people deserved a mere second glance.

"The guy recommended by that old guy Lee is presumably not any worse than you." Xing Min referred to his old rival, Lee Yanyi.

"Then it's necessary to me to have a look. Do you have any information?" Chu Xiao tapped on the solid wood table top lightly with his fingers.

"It has been sent to your email." Xing Min knew his temper very well and hence said directly.

"Got it. See you at the contest scene." After saying that, Chu Xiao wanted to hang off the phone. However, he was stopped immediately.

"Wait. Come back one day earlier. I want to taste the craftsmanship of my apprentice." Xing Min didn't have many expectations while saying that.

"After the contest finishes, I will cook a meal for you with the food ingredients." Chu Xiao said habitually.

"Alright." Xing Min nodded his head and agreed.

Chu Xiao then hung up the telephone. He still had an interview in the afternoon.

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"Teacher, did Master Chu agree?" The assistant asked with a caring tone at the side.

The appellation that the assistant used to Chu Xiao was the honorific title. It was a great honor for a chef to be called master.

"He will give face to this old man." Xing Min said complacently.

"Is it all right not to give him all the information?" The assistant didn't feel right not giving him the complete information of Yuan Zhou.

"Never mind. Anyway, he will know that when the contest commences." Xing Min stroked his short beard and said proudly.

"Teacher, I don't think it's good for you to create a rival for Master Chu purposely." The assistant said with a tone of disapproval.

"It doesn't matter." Xing Min nevertheless didn't realize there was anything wrong.

"Although Master Chu will not fail, he will definitely blame you for adding to the confusion randomly." His assistant said to his face directly.

"You little brat, why are you always in favor of others? Look carefully, this old man is your teacher." Having been shamed into anger, Xing Min said that.

"Master Chu is more frank and straightforward than you." His assistant muttered with a low voice.

"If I say it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter. That old guy Lee always plays tricks. Can't I fight back?" Xing Min said angrily.

"Then I will tell Master Chu the real situation before the contest begins." His assistant insisted.

"Go, go, go now. You are saying as if I were lying to him." With his eyes widely open, Xing Min looked at his assistant discontentedly.

He muttered in the heart, "Whose assistant exactly are you? Why do you always defend others rather than me?"

"Thank you, teacher." Seeing Xing Min agree, his assistant revealed a smile on his face. It seemed that he was very happy to be able to help Chu Xiao.

On the other side, the information that Chu Xiao received about Yuan Zhou was the incomplete version.

For example, Xing Min wrote all the studying experiences of Yuan Zhou as unknown rather than none.

He even classified Yuan Zhou's teacher as a mystery man. Lee Yanyi, the only person they knew of, was written by Xing Min as Yuan Zhou's instructor.

A role transition from a customer into an instructor! If Lee Yanyi knew that, he would probably say, "Good. Nothing wrong with it."

Taking the information like that, Chu Xiao smiled slightly and said, "Interesting. With the golden tongue of that Professor Lee, no taste is able to be concealed from him. God knows where he found this mystery person."

"It seems to be a little more interesting now." Chu Xiao felt his interest increasing.

Of course, even that little more was due to Lee Yanyi's recommendation.

"Pa", Chu Xiao set down the information and sat back in the chair. Then, he took an ancient book and started to read.

On the other side, there was something strange happening in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Hello. What would you like to eat today?" Zhou Jia asked the customer in front of her.

She didn't really like this person as he ate for a long time every time even though he would order three dishes whenever he came.

He came about once per week and every time he would stay from the very beginning to the end of the business hours.

Therefore, Zhou Jia didn't like this person, even if he had been standing there to eat since the standing positions were available.

"Jinling Grass, Silk Twined Rabbit and Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set." The person straightened his Tang suit on his body earnestly and said with a mild tone.

"Ok. One moment, please." Zhou Jia revealed her occupational smile.

"Sorry to bother you." The person nodded his head and thanked her politely.

Business was gradually getting busier. Nevertheless, Zhou Jia had been able to deal with the work very easily. Although she wasn't as lovable and pretty as Mu Xiaoyun, she worked diligently. Therefore, the customers didn't usually make things difficult for her.

Let alone that customers came here only for the delicious and to savor the taste.

As for Yuan Zhou, he concentrated his attention and started to cook dishes carefully once the business time commenced. It had always been what he persisted in.

Of course, it was also what he had always been persisting intentionally.

The dinner time lasting three hours passed soon. It was only a moment of a blink to the customers.

"Hua Hua". Conventionally, Yuan Zhou ate up the noodles and carried the remaining broth to the dog Broth outside.

If he did it any later, it would probably scratch the door.

After a sound of "Hua La", he opened the door and saw Broth squatting at the back door as expected.

"Don't scratch the door. You have been anxious to drink the broth recently. Why?" Yuan Zhou poured the broth into the dog's bowl hurriedly and then asked while looking at the black eyes of a dog.

Whereas Broth just looked at Yuan Zhou expressionlessly as usual.

"Alright. You don't speak." Yuan Zhou stood up and shrugged and then turned around and left.

"This little thing doesn't even bark in front of me." Yuan Zhou muttered.

He entered the restaurant and shut the door. Suddenly, he was enlightened and opened the door again. Then, Yuan Zhou saw a strange scene.

Broth was walking forward steadily with his own bowl dangling from his mouth.

Besides, Yuan Zhou could use his humanity to guarantee Broth's mood was very good now. After all, its tail was shaking very happily.

"Damn, this little thing has a secret. Where is it going with its bowl?" Seeing Broth walk further, Yuan Zhou followed.

Yuan Zhou cared about Broth's strange deeds very much. After all, it had drunk so much broth provided by him.

It was also Yuan Zhou's work to care about little animals and maintain the worldly ethics instead of him being curious about that.

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Chapter 365: Breakfast

"Ta Ta Ta", Yuan Zhou followed Broth quietly with his light feet while Broth walked forward step by step with the bowl dangling from its mouth.

"Hua La hua La", its tail was shaking very happily.

"What exactly is the little thing going to do?" Yuan Zhou stood still for an instant and looked at Broth going forward.

When Broth walked farther again, Yuan Zhou followed up.

The side street was originally not long and just in a little while, Broth arrived at where he had lived.

It was the place beside the trash can.

"Woof, woof". Broth first set down the bowl and barked.

The action of setting down the bowl was quite gentle. With Yuan Zhou's eyesight, he could clearly see the broth inside the bowl not spill out.

"Tsk-tsk. It's really a damn smart dog," Yuan Zhou couldn't help but mutter.

As was expected, another dog crept out of a plastic knitting bag in a little while right after that.

With the yellowish brown colour, it looked to be a mongrel. The irregular furs were unevenly distributed over its body.

There were also some long furs on its mouth. When it saw Broth, however, it ran to him happily and started to rub against him.

"Woof Woof." The bark of the little Chinese rural dog sounded like a lot of delight.

"Woof." Broth first took a step back and then barked loudly.

"Is this little brat merely a dog?" Yuan Zhou was quite suspicious about his eyes, because he caught sight of some pride in Broth.

While Yuan Zhou was still bewildered, Broth had driven the little wandering dog to drink the broth.

Then, Yuan Zhou noticed this little wandering dog had actually two buckteeth exposed outside.

It looked quite ferocious, but it was nevertheless very cute when it made mournful sounds in front of Broth.

Finally, Yuan Zhou got to know why it was a stray dog. Even in the world of dogs, a good appearance was also very important.

Such a ferocious look could hardly make people have sympathy on it. Even if it played cute, it looked like it would bite others.

"This little brat surprisingly offers the wandering dog his own food. It turns out to be very much like his owner. Because I'm always of high morality, I can raise such a good dog as to sacrifice himself and help others." Yuan Zhou turned around the said complacently.

Having known what the matter was, Yuan Zhou then went back to his own restaurant.

This time, however, Yuan Zhou took out another bowl that he had used before again and put it where Broth lived. Inside of the bowl was some clear broth that was used to cook noodles.

After he finished that, Yuan Zhou went back to the restaurant and prepared to wash up and sleep.

Before he went to bed, Yuan Zhou took out a book and started to read. It was a book listed in the table of contents of the book Cooked Wheaten Foods. Due to the huge amount, Yuan Zhou had formed a habit of reading for one hour before going to sleep.

Along with the page turning sound of "Hua Hua", Yuan Zhou was reading the book earnestly. The atmosphere was quiet and tranquil.

At the other side, however, an ear-piercing cough broke the

tranquility of the night.

The granny coughed ceaselessly.

"Cough Cough Cough." The granny coughed badly while swiping the phone.

"It's this one." The granny looked at it for quite a while before she finally confirmed.

She dialed the number and just in a little while a male voice passed from the other end.

"Granny Feng, what's the matter?" The man asked with a caring tone.

"Cough, cough, cough. I'm just asking if you are free tomorrow, Little Jiang." That Granny Feng was the one that had helped Yuan Zhou to do the cleaning at the door of his restaurant.

"Granny, you are sick, aren't you? Did you go to the doctor?" The man called Little Jiang was immediately worried when he heard Granny Feng cough badly once she uttered.

"Never mind. I just caught a cold. Do you have time?" Granny Feng asked again.

"Of course, I do. I'm on the way to you. Now that you are coughing so badly, you must go to the hospital." Little Jiang said that firmly.

"No need to waste money. I'm alright." Granny Feng said in a hearty manner. But she coughed immediately after she said that.

"Wait. I'm coming to send you to the hospital." There passed a sound of tidying things up from the other end of the phone.

"I say no need to do that." When people got older, people got naughtier. Granny Feng was even annoyed by Little Jiang.

"Then you tell me what I can do for you?" Little Jiang didn't insist, but changed the subject obediently.

"I'm just asking if you could do me a favor and attend to my stall tomorrow." Granny Feng was still angry. She said irritably.

"Yes, sure. But you have to promise me to go to the hospital. As long as I know you are well, I will go to attend to your stall tomorrow morning." While Little Jiang was saying that, he had arrived at the door of Granny Feng's home.

With his hair standing straight, Little Jiang was dressed in the shirt and suit pants and appeared to be in a hurry.

"How could you negotiate with me? If you can't help, I'll do it myself." Granny Feng said discontentedly.

"Of course I will help. You are my grandma." Little Jiang said proudly.

"Good." Granny Feng nodded her head with satisfaction.

"But if you go to the hospital, you save money for me. That way, I don't need to take care of you." Little Jiang said in an euphemistic way.

"Are you sure you will attend to my stall dutifully?" Granny Feng asked suspiciously.

"Don't worry about that. I will." Little Jiang patted on his chest and guaranteed.

Only then did he take Granny Feng to the hospital overnight. She was indeed seriously sick. It was a disease that affected mainly old people. When people got older, the resistance of their body became worse and sickness would come.

However, the doctor still suggested she rest more. Therefore, Little Jiang directly went through the admission procedures.

"Just a small illness. You are making a fuss." Granny Feng lay on the hospital bed and said discontentedly.

"I have told you, you are working too hard. Don't go to the stall for the small business, ok?" Little Jiang didn't feel well when he

thought of the stall.

"You don't understand. If I don't go tomorrow, many people will look for me. They are just waiting to eat my steamed buns." Granny Feng answered proudly.

"But you are too tired." Little Jiang said with a low voice.

"Anyway, you have promised me you will go to attend to my stall. Tell me then." Granny Feng instructed him again and again.

"Ok, sure. I will follow your instructions." Little Jiang said helplessly.

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Since he got a task, Little Jiang got up very early. After he prepared the Mantous and steamed buns, he got out of the home of Granny Feng.

When he arrived at the place,

He was startled, "So many people here."

When Yuan Zhou's restaurant was about to be opened, more people arrived.

As this was the first time he was doing business, Little Jiang was embarrassed to hawk his wares. He only stood there silently and answered whenever people asked him.

In a little while, two girls walked over to him smilingly, "We both want a serving of steamed buns and soybean milk."

"One moment, please. Here are you." The two girls nodded their head with a smile.

When they received the food, he felt that they seemed familiar as if they had ever met before.

However, Little Jiang didn't remember whom they were even after they left.

Shortly afterwards, a man that was holding a document envelop

under his arm came over hurriedly and bought some soybean milk. After that, he walked away.

Just like that, he sold many Mantous and steamed buns one after another. During the process, he felt that some people seemed familiar to him while some were not.

Not until he took a break did he remember Granny Feng's words.

However, these so-called acquaintances surprisingly didn't ask about Granny Feng's matters.

About these acquaintances, Granny Feng knew all of them well. But these people didn't even ask about her since she didn't appear today.

"That is way too strange." Little Jiang took a look at the insulation barrel that carried the Mantous and steamed buns and then at the conspicuous big characters on it, "Specially Used By Granny Feng."

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Chapter 366: A Hundred Out Of Ten Thousand

"Why isn't Granny Feng here today?" Suddenly a person asked.

"She is sick. I'm helping her to attend to the stall." Little Jiang turned his head and answered with a delighted expression.

He looked at the man and then found it was a man that had just bought the food from him.

The man was quite conspicuous. Little Jiang could immediately recognize this man was the white-collar person, Little Fang, mentioned by Granny Feng yesterday.

He was wearing the fitted business suit and kept a slicked-back hairstyle. And on his left face, there was a mole. While he was speaking, he carried an accent of Jinling, which was very easy to be recognized.

"Is she getting better?" The white-collar person, Little Fang, frowned and asked with a caring tone.

"Not bad. She is now with the doctor." Little Jiang was very happy when he found somebody caring about Granny Feng.

"Okay, that's good." Little Fang nodded his head and then left.

"Thanks for asking." Little Jiang nodded smilingly.

The good breakfast business was during the business hours of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Nevertheless, it had started one hour earlier.

The breakfast time ended in no more than three hours.

In the morning, Little Jiang saw the ponytail girl who liked eating Mantou with sugar.

He saw the elite white-collar beauty that liked eating Steamed Assorted Vegetable Buns along with the soybean milk but did not

like using plastic bags.

And a man that didn't like talking but only muttered to a cup of soybean milk.

Also, the man that always bought two cups of soybean milk and a Mantou along with sugar.

However, every one of them bought and then left. Nobody was curious about Little Jiang's presence.

Few people asked about the granny. There might be only one or two people out of ten or twenty that asked why Granny Feng wasn't here.

Or even worse, many people didn't even realize that.

"Sighs. Obviously, nobody asked about her. Why was she so worried? It's definitely not necessary." Little Jiang muttered discontentedly.

Yet, it didn't delay him from clearing up the stall.

Once he got home and set everything down, he went to the hospital. Of course, it was also requested by Granny Feng.

"Have you done the cleaning?" The moment Granny Feng saw Little Jiang, she asked about this matter.

"Of course. It's clean now." Little Jiang said affirmatively.

"How's the business? Is it good?" Seeing Little Jiang say affirmatively, Granny Feng then asked with a big smile on her face.

"It's fairly good. All the food has been sold out. I heard the boss was selling the sesame seed cake today. The soybean milk was sold out first." Seeing Granny Feng so happy, Little Jiang found it inappropriate to say what he had wanted to. Thus, he had to reply in favor of her.

"Good. That's good." Granny Feng nodded her head smilingly.

"Now you can take rest and wait to recover from the sickness

here. I will be attending to your stall until you are good." Little Jiang sat down straightway and said with an affirmative tone.

"No, I can't. I have to go back to prepare Mantous in the afternoon. It's only a small disease. I don't need to stay in the hospital for long." Granny Feng pointed at the intravenous drip and said earnestly.

"Please, take a rest for two days. There are so many people selling food there." Little Jiang pressed her down gently but angrily.

"You don't understand. Xiao Fang, Yuan Yuan and some other people all like eating my soybean milk and steamed buns." Granny Feng revealed a manner of "You know nothing" and then said to Little Jiang.

"Anyway, you can't leave your health alone." Little Jiang didn't agree.

"Let me tell you. If I don't cook, that young boy will have nothing to eat. I won't let that happen." Granny Feng still insisted.

"The truth is that few people asked where you had gone today. Some people are indeed like what you described, but you are not familiar with them, right?" When Little Jiang found Granny Feng didn't intend to follow his advice, he had only to say that.

"Yeah. Of course they don't know me, but I know them." When Granny Feng said that, she was smiling as if it were a marvelous matter.

"If the customers don't even care, why don't you care about them so much? Please, do think about your health, can you?" Little Jiang tried to persuade her.

"You said only a few people asked about me today, but still somebody asked. Besides that, the breakfast was all sold out, right?" Seeing Little Jiang not agree, Granny Feng said calmly.

"Of course. But that's because of your excellent craftsmanship." Little Jiang first nodded his head and then added.

"So I like it and enjoy that, let alone that I know whom they are." Granny Feng smiled and nodded her head while saying that.

"I don't care. You just can't go back today." Little Jiang said earnestly.

"Ok. But you must go there tomorrow to check the situation and clean the ground." Seeing Little Jiang's anxious manner, Granny Feng agreed to her request.

"No problem. As long as you take good care of yourself, I'll definitely go." Little Jiang patted on his chest and guaranteed.

Naturally, Granny Feng nodded her head, indicating that she would do as requested.

Actually, Little Jiang totally didn't understand Granny Feng's mindset. Obviously, few people cared about whether or not she went to sell breakfast.

However, she wasn't really sad when she heard that nobody asked about her and greeted her, even if she could remember their characteristics, hobbies, and the working time of those people one by one.

She spoke as if they had been acquaintances. Actually, only when Little Jiang got there did he realize that those people weren't familiar with Granny Feng at all.

He couldn't really understand that. Therefore, he specially observed those who had been muttered by Granny Feng on the next morning if they would mention her when she wasn't there.

"Please make way for me. You are blocking my way." Little Jiang was observing carefully when his view was blocked by a thin figure.

It was a man who was dressed in a dark blue shirt and black pants. With a slightly long hair and black framed glasses, he looked quite refined and a little shy.

Upon hearing Little Jiang's word, he immediately turned his head and then lowered his head and started to apologize, "My apologies. I'm so sorry."

"Don't worry. Never mind." On hearing the apology, Little Jiang contrarily became a little embarrassed.

The man let out a sigh of relief when he heard that. He retreated aside carefully with his eyes yet staring the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant without blinking.

"Hey. What are you looking at?" Little Jiang went up and talked to him curiously.

"Nothing." The refined man acted as if he had been scared. Instantly, he blushed.

"Oh." Little Jiang found this person seemed to dislike talking, thus he spoke no more.

In a little moment, nevertheless, this person suddenly got a shine in his eyes and walked quickly to the queuing machine at Yuan Zhou's restaurant and then waited there patiently for the number ticket.

"Such an odd guy. He didn't go there just now but heads there now." Little Jiang shook his head speechlessly.

"Forget it. Let me mind my own business." Little Jiang shook his head and tried to forget all about it. He then began to watch if anybody came and asked about Granny Feng.

But he was disappointed. Like yesterday, few people asked about her. Compared with yesterday, there were indeed some more people who did that. But compared with those who were remembered by Granny Feng, they were really not many.

"Just as expected, a mere hawker was unlikely to be remembered by many people. Why did she still ask me to come?" Little Jiang looked at so many hawkers around and muttered with a low voice.

He found it uninteresting at all, therefore he took his phone and called Granny Feng straightforwardly.

"Granny, what do you want to eat today?" He asked while looking at the breakfast hawkers scattering around.

"You don't seem to be happy. What happened?" The hoarse voice of Granny Feng pointed out Little Jiang's mood frankly.

"Not really. What about you drop this business and just rest at home? I can support you. We don't lack that little bit of money." Little Jiang mentioned the subject again.

"I got it. You must have seen nobody ask about me and then feel not good." Granny Feng paid no attention to the subject of retirement, but turned to say that.

"Do you agree with me or not?" Little Jiang asked persistently.

"No, I don't. I'm doing the small business happily."

"I don't agree that you go out and run a small business even at the very beginning, as you have to get up early and do the cleaning at the same time. It's so tiring. Trust me, I can support you."

Little Jiang said, "At the start, you said many people cared about you and thus you were unwilling to abandon them. I had nothing to say about that at that time. But now, nobody really cares about you, obviously."

"You also said there were indeed a few people that asked about me. If there are 100 people and only one cares about me, it's one piece of concern. If there are 10,000 people, it's a 100 pieces of concern." Granny first refused his request that he support her and then said leisurely.

"Only 100 out of 10,000? That's totally unimportant. Granny Feng, just follow my advice, ok?" Apparently, Little Jiang didn't understand what Granny Feng meant and he continued to persuade her persistently.

"100 out of 10,000 is absolutely not important. It makes sense if you think that way. But I prefer my way of thinking. How happy it is if 100 people care about me!" She comforted Little Jiang softly. There was even happiness in Granny Feng's voice.

"I can't persuade you. But you must take good care of yourself." Little Jiang sighed.

"Sure, I will. I'm so happy with that." Granny Feng laughed and said happily.

Once Little Jiang hung off the phone, he couldn't help but mutter, "One gets more mischievous with ages. It's really true."

Although Little Jiang had always failed in understanding Granny Feng's thinking, he felt at ease if she could be happy.

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Chapter 367: Romantic French Meal

It was getting colder in December. Luckily, the weather of Chengdu was in favor of the people and they wouldn't feel cold with long sleeve shirts and a coat outside.

The girl ahead of the refined man was just wearing a dark blue shirt and a white thin sweater outside as well as skinny jeans and a pair of white shoes.

She looked rather youthful and pretty.

The girl felt somebody was behind and then turned her head to have a look. Appearing on her pale face was a faint flush.

Once in a blue moon, the refined man raised his head and pushed his glasses upward nervously and then carefully revealed a smile on his face.

Then, the girl's face got redder. She turned around abruptly and stood still there.

The two people just lined up there silently. When they received their number tickets, none left the line.

The breakfast time was short and they stood next to each other with a smile on their faces.

They acted as if it were a matter of enjoyment to queue.

Shortly afterwards, they entered the restaurant and sat together harmoniously.

"One Thousand Layer Mantous will be provided today. Do you want two servings?" Zhou Jia went up and asked smilingly.

Although they didn't look into the others' eyes but just stared at something in front of them, they nodded their head at the same time.

"Ok. One moment, please. It will be served very soon." Zhou Jia didn't hesitate at all, but just went to carry the dishes habitually.

It seemed that the two people weren't here for the first time.

While they were eating Mantous, the refined man ate slowly and occasionally stole a glance at the girl.

Nevertheless, the girl that was eating beside him almost buried her face into the plate, but the Mantou in her mouth contrarily tasted quite sweet.

When the breakfast almost ended, Yuan Zhou uttered.

"A new dish will be served for lunch. Whoever is allergic to seafood can't eat it." If Yuan Zhou didn't speak, he was silent; but once he spoke, it would be a surprise.

"There's surprisingly a new dish? So wonderful! I had better come here earlier at noon." The first reaction of the customers was to come earlier at noon.

"I really have a good luck to be able to encounter Boss Yuan giving prior notice. It seems that I need to buy a lottery ticket." Ling Hong said with a teasing expression.

"That's one way to put it. Boss Yuan, what kind of seafood it is for lunch?" Wu Hai was quite curious.

"I want to know how much it is." Ma Zhida had got a new plan recently. He couldn't continue to spend money as extravagantly as before. Therefore, he asked a quite realistic question.

"What's the name of the dish?" A customer asked with a caring tone.

Once Yuan Zhou gave this surprising news, the customers became excited instantly and then various questions followed close on another.

Even the cultured man said with a low voice under the cover of the noisy surroundings, "I will come at noon to taste the new dish."

It was as if he was muttering to himself, but also felt like he was talking to the girl beside him.

The girl nevertheless just lowered her head without any reaction as if she hadn't heard anything. However, her face covered up by her hair blushed instantly.

Yuan Zhou stood there silently and only said when the people asking became quieter, "You'll know that at noon. See you then."

After that, Yuan Zhou slightly bowed. Finally, Zhou Jia got the opportunity to see visitors out.

"Everybody, the breakfast time ends now. Please." Zhou Jia raised her hand and gave a sigh.

"I keep feeling this brat isn't that nice. What do you say?" Ling Hong said to Wu Hai while walking outside.

"Indeed. It doesn't correspond to his character to notify us of the new dish beforehand." Wu Hai took a suspicious look at Yuan Zhou.

However, Yuan Zhou had no expression at all except the quite prim manner on his face.

What a joke! Yuan Zhou had specially trained for this before.

Once the customers left, Yuan Zhou sat down immediately.

"That way, there will be no problem to take days off for the contest." Yuan Zhou revealed a manner like "I'm so smart".

That's right. The reason why Yuan Zhou gave the prior notice was because the date of the contest had been confirmed.

Yuan Zhou calculated and found there would be another two days before the contest. Therefore, he prepared to serve a new dish honestly and frankly in order to compensate for his customers.

"I'm a nice guy." Yuan Zhou looked at the kitchen and muttered to himself earnestly.

Of course, nobody was around him at that time. If anybody saw that, they would definitely think Yuan Zhou was mentally disabled.

What Yuan Zhou cooked this time was still one of the foreign cuisines that he drew last time. However, it was the French cuisine that was recognized worldwide to be romantic and delicious.

"Speaking of which, is there really no problem putting the prawns and seashells together in a water vat?" Yuan Zhou was quite puzzled while he was looking at the water vat in the kitchen.

The mussels provided by the system this time were still in the water vat. The problem was that there was also the main ingredient of the dish Phoenix-Tail Prawns, the prawns, inside.

The system displayed, "The aquatic products will all be living in the water vat later."

"If it's fish, it will also live here?" Yuan Zhou pointed at the water vat and revealed a surprised expression.

The system displayed, "There was no exception for aquatic products."

"You are showing off your advanced technology unabashedly. If it's the bullfrog, will you also throw it into the water vat?" Yuan Zhou couldn't help grumbling.

The system displayed, "The Bullfrog is an amphibian."

"Don't turn aside and change the subject. The water vat is so small. How can one put so many animals inside?" Yuan Zhou almost wanted to shout at the system.

Yet, the system disappeared again and left nothing behind.

Having waited for quite a while, Yuan Zhou found the system didn't answer him. Then, he sighed and went up to check the mussels.

"They are surprisingly really in the water vat."

Looking at the prawns leaping around at the edge and the mussels, Yuan Zhou revealed a speechless manner.

"Fortunately, the two things can coexist peacefully. It will be

funny if they fight." Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief.

He was thinking if it was possible that they fought with each other when the water vat was full of aquatic products. The scene would be much too pretty to think of.

For example, the tiger shark, the giant squid and swordfish... Speaking of that, however, there seemed to be no dish to make out of them.

Looking at the two animals that coexisted peacefully, Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of a very fatal problem.

"System, this dish must be cooked with the fresh mussels. If the mussels die, we can't use them to cook dishes." While saying that, Yuan Zhou went up and started to scoop them up with the net bag.

The system displayed, "The ingredients provided by the system are the best in the world and they will never die from that."

The system used the black bold font that was conspicuous this time.

"Mussels are a saltwater product while the prawns are fresh water shrimps. Will they die? What do you think?" Yuan Zhou said irritably.

Covered by the face mask, even his voice exuded exasperation.

Indeed. If such beautiful mussels died, what a pity it would be!

After a long moment, the system displayed, "Host, you don't need to worry."

"Oh, yeah. I almost forget you are the number 1 system." Yuan Zhou's actions of scooping up the prawns paused for a few seconds and then he reacted.

This thing was an advanced technology. Perhaps, that wasn't a big matter to it.

"Cough cough. It's not early. I have to prepare now." Yuan Zhou looked at the mussels that were scooped up and said very

naturally.

Only Yuan Zhou was in the restaurant at that time, therefore the atmosphere wasn't embarrassing at all.

He turned his head and took a look at the water inside of the water vat and then he suddenly wanted to taste it.

"Freshwater fish and saltwater fish can even coexist in one place?" Yuan Zhou grumbled.

After he put the mussels aside and let them to spit out the sand, Yuan Zhou started to study the water vat.

This water vat was the one that existed after the renovation by the system. He never thought it had such functions.

"Maybe I can write a novel called 'My Water Vat is Connected with the Rivers, Lakes and Oceans.'." Looking at the water inside, Yuan Zhou said subconsciously.

With that weird thought, Yuan Zhou was thinking of various things when luckily, the alarm clock rang at the side.

The mussels had finished spitting out the sand and were ready to be cooked now...

Chapter 368: A New Dish

For the French dish this time, Yuan Zhou used the butter provided by the system, as usual.

The system displayed, "Butter can be made from both animal fat and vegetable oil. Relatively speaking, both the nutritive value and taste of the animal-fat-making butter are better, but its cholesterol level is a little high. On the basis of not affecting the taste, this system has specially removed 80% of the total cholesterol level."

"I feel my fat content is a little high. Is there a way to remove it? A painless way is better, of course." Yuan Zhou said primly.

The system displayed, "Host, please do more exercises. That fat can't be removed in a mechanical way."

"Haw-haw. We can use liposuction here in our world. You can't do that, right?" Yuan Zhou said excitedly as if he had found a new continent.

The system displayed, "This method is unable to make people lose weight or increase the muscles."

"Anyway, you can't do it." Yuan Zhou said smilingly.

Yuan Zhou had originally expected more answers from the system, but then he found it disappeared again.

The dish was particular about the original taste, therefore only few ingredients was added in order to highlight the freshness of the mussels. Of course, the boiling time was also very short.

"Mu Mu, let's go to eat the French dish today. We can go at noon." Wu Zhou took the phone and said with a gentle voice.

"You brat, I'd rather wait to eat Boss Yuan's delicious dishes, not the French dishes." Zhuang Xinmu humphed, expressing her contempt.

"You don't know. The French dish is newly served by Boss Yuan.

Besides, it's seafood. Don't you like to eat seafood?" Wu Zhou said with a complacent tone.

"Terrific. I'll go there at noon. It is lucky that I have very high working efficiency and I can go there earlier." Zhuang Xinmu said excitedly immediately once she heard that.

"Alright. See you at noon, Mu Mu." Wu Zhou nodded his head even though Zhuang Xinmu couldn't see that at the other end of the phone.

After that, they spoke intimately for a little longer and then hung up the phone.

Such a matter of making calls and notifying friends happened everywhere.

Even Wu Hai made calls to others, but his purpose was different from that of others.

"Ling Hong, can you not post it on the microblog? If there are too many people, we are probably unable to eat it." Looking at Ling Hong's posts on the microblog, Wu Hai said discontentedly.

"It doesn't matter. I have plenty of time." Ling Hong said with an unconcerned tone.

"Talk to the hand. Just stop posting that, please." After saying that, Wu Hai wanted to hang up the phone. However, he was stopped by Ling Hong.

"For that activity, will that Compass really treat us? The kind that we can order whatever we want? Is this activity true?" Ling Hong asked three questions at a time anxiously while moving the mouse and flipping through the only post of Yuan Zhou.

"Of course. What did you write?" Wu Hai stopped his action of hanging up the phone and said cautiously.

After all, if you want to win all the time, you have to be quite familiar with yourself and your rival. Therefore, Wu Hai had really

decent patience.

"I commented that however awesome he is, he's inferior to me." Ling Hong answered triumphantly.

"Um. It's indeed so. He's not as awesome as you. Bye." Wu Hai said affirmatively and then said goodbye.

"Ok, bye." Ling Hong revealed a vulpine smile.

What a joke! Ever since he knew of this activity, he had deleted all his comments as well as the records. The one he posted now was naturally a thesis-like comment that described why Yuan Zhou was so awesome.

This thesis cost a lot, about hundreds of RMB.

Although Ling Hong didn't like eating discounted dishes, he would never miss a free treat offered by Boss Yuan.

Soon, lunch time came. Zhou Jia straightforwardly arrived half an hour earlier than usual as she had already expected it would be much more chaotic. When she arrived, there were already huge crowds of people outside Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

After the queuing machine was installed, fewer people lined up outside quietly. Instead, crowds of people stood together chaotically, which made Zhou Jia a little panicked and confused.

At that time, Jiang Changxi stood out and uttered.

"Everybody, the boss has prepared to serve a new dish today. In order for more people to eat it, I suggest we hurry up with the meal. What do you guys think?" Jiang Changxi said vigorously like an elder sister.

"Ok. I agree." Su Mu agreed first along with his sister.

Then, more people followed suit and echoed.

"No problem." Other customers that lined up there all agreed readily.

Seeing the chaotic scene get controlled, Jiang Changxi went back to her former position with a smile, giving the control to Zhou Jia at the side.

"Everybody, please calm down. Just wait for another 6 minutes and my boss will open the door for business. The first 20 customers can go up to get the number ticket. Thank you." Zhou Jia took a deep breath and said loudly.

"Finally! I can also eat the new dish first today." Liu Chen was also a well-informed person.

"Yeah. At least we don't need to wait in vain after the queuing machine is used." Brother Jun sighed with emotion while looking at the silver queuing machine proudly.

When the customers waited for taking the number tickets, the refined man who had been there in the morning was nevertheless absent-minded and had been looking backward all along.

Not until a familiar figure appeared in the side street did the refined man felt relieved.

Just when the girl walked over into the line, the refined man went to behind her with a leap. There was another person between them and that made both of them feel safe and comfortable.

The girl ahead of him revealed a warm smile. Although the refined man didn't see her smile, he nevertheless felt the girl didn't refuse him. Therefore, there appeared a faint smile under his black-framed glasses.

The two of them stood in the line tacitly and quietly just like they had done in the morning and waited for the moment to enjoy the delicacy.

"I'm looking forward to Boss Yuan's French dish. It's definitely very romantic." Once in a blue moon, Zhuang Xinmu pulled Wu Zhou's arm like a little girl and said expectantly.

Zhuang Xinmu spoke as if she had never eaten French dishes

before.

"I have once taken you to eat French cuisine before." Wu Zhou felt he was neglected and hence protested to prove his existence.

"Anyway, I feel so happy on thinking that it's Boss Yuan who cooks the romantic French dish." Zhuang Xinmu immediately retorted.

"But, it's me who took you here." Wu Zhou declared seriously.

"Yes, it's you. Of course it's you." Zhuang Xinmu nodded her head and agreed with a seemingly earnest manner.

Seeing Zhuang Xinmu's attitude, Wu Zhou could only smile helplessly. Deep in the heart, however, he started to grumble, "Boss Yuan, please. Please find a hostess for this restaurant quickly."

In a little while, the refined man and the girl who waited in the front of the line entered the restaurant again at the same time.

"What do you two want to eat?" Zhou Jia asked courteously.

"A serving of the new dish." The refined man said quietly with a blush on his face.

The girl beside him also blushed a little bit. The two words of "you two" mentioned by Zhou Jia sounded like they had arrived here together.

"What about you?" Zhou Jia turned her head and asked the girl at the side.

"The same one. She orders the same dish." The refined man said clearly and hurriedly when the girl nodded her head.

The girl didn't retort but just nodded her head lightly, indicating he was right.

"Alright. One moment, please, you two." Only then did Zhou Jia go back to carry the dishes.

As was expected, Zhou Jia carried two servings of the dishes to them in a short moment. As usual, not until the two dishes were carried close to them did they start to smell the strong wine fragrance and a faint scent of butter.

What exactly was the new dish?

Chapter 369: Colorful Purple Mussels

"This dish looks so delicious," the refined man said with a low voice.

The girl beside him merely lowered her head and smiled lightly. It seemed that she strongly agreed with the refined man's words.

That made the refined man, who was looking at her secretly, very delighted. His face under the black-framed glasses even became red due to the embarrassment.

"I'm starting to eat," the refined man took a deep breath and then said calmly.

On the other side, the girl just nodded her head, so slightly that others would barely notice, to answer to the refined man's word. In the eyes of others, the refined man was just talking to himself.

The nod of the girl was indeed inconspicuous. However, the refined man, that had been watching her in private, noticed that delightedly.

The White Wine Mussels in the plates of both people were giving off steam. Over the mussels was the verdant common garden parsley as a decoration. The purple shells along with the luscious flesh revealed from the tiny opening looked to be awfully beautiful.

"It's surprisingly purple! How beautiful." The refined man picked up his chopsticks and slightly turned a mussel.

"As far as I know, the purple mussels are usually exported. It's not produced in this district and hence, we can hardly eat it." With a blush, the refined man explained earnestly while looking at the meal in front of him.

Of course, it was well known to all that he was talking to the girl that sat beside him.

The girl didn't answer him but just tilted her ear toward him and seemed to be listening earnestly.

When the refined man looked at the girl secretly and found that she was listening carefully, his face turned redder, but he still continued explaining earnestly.

"This kind of mussels have a more beautiful name, the East Sea Lady. But nowadays, almost all mussels are cultured." The refined man brought out the elegant name carefully, but then he found the latter part was wrong. Therefore, he added hurriedly.

"Of course I believe Boss Yuan's mussels are definitely grown in the wild. It smells very fragrant." The refined man really smelled it after he said that.

"Besides, these kind of purple mussels growing in the wild are quite rare. The cultured ones wouldn't be so delicious." The refined man pushed his glasses upward and continued to say with a low voice, "God knows where the boss gets these things."

Seeing the refined man hurriedly try to explain, the girl, on the contrary, smiled.

Of course, the refined man dared not look at her directly. He just glanced at her secretly from time to time and then turned his head back and smiled furtively, thinking that the girl couldn't see that.

"I feel that it should definitely be very delicious. I'm eating it right now." The refined man said again lightly.

"Ka Ka", it was the sound of the chopsticks coming into contact with the shell, melodious and beautiful.

The flesh of the mussels had been processed with special knife skills of Yuan Zhou. Therefore, the refined man picked up an entire piece of flesh very easily, including the small pieces of cylindrical flesh at the top. The golden outer flesh and the snowy tongue of the mussels trembled between the chopsticks from the man's strength.

Then, the white and thick broth dripped down. It looked fresh and tender. Along with the burst of fragrance that rushed into his nose, the refined man swallowed up the entire flesh with a single bite, disregarding anything else.

Once this dish entered his mouth, unlike other dishes, the texture arrived before the taste. An extremely fine and tender feeling appeared in the mouth. Right after that was the faint flavor of milk and a little tinge of olives, which wasn't intoxicating. Instead it just perfectly combined with the intrinsic fragrant and sweet taste of the mussels.

"Slurp Slurp". While the refined man was chewing, the intrinsic salty taste of the mussels burst out again and dominated his entire taste buds perfectly.

Just like a skilled and humble commander, displaying the intrinsic freshness and delicacy of the mussels to the best.

"Hum. It's super delicious and gives a fragrant and sweet feeling." This time, the refined man turned his head directly and looked at the girl earnestly.

The girl nodded her head with a sparkling gaze and also started to eat.

The refined man continued eating the dish unreservedly when he saw the girl begin to eat.

The chopsticks emitted a melodious tone upon touching the shells, harmonious and quiet. Along with the girl's smiling face, the scene appeared of great harmony.

"It's so good to be young." Wu Hai turned his head and took a look at them and then sighed.

"Exactly. Being young is so nice!" Ling Hong also sighed with emotion.

"Eat quickly. Do you still have time to sigh with emotion? Can't you see the people at the back are all staring at you guys?" Man

Man said smilingly at the side.

"No, no. I haven't finished the meal yet." Wu Hai shook his head.

Then, he dipped the chopsticks in the broth in the plate and sighed comfortably.

"Boss Yuan, get me a serving of plain cooked rice." Wu Hai shouted vigorously.

"Wow, a meat-eater changed to eat plain cooked rice now?" Man Man ridiculed him on purpose.

"Wait. Another serving for me." Ling Hong was unwilling to fall behind.

"What are you eating the plain cooked rice for?" Man Man was puzzled.

Wu Hai eating rice could be attributed to his good appetite. However, Ling Hong, being particular about the food, had never eaten the plain cooked rice alone before.

"You'll understand later," Wu Hai said mysteriously.

At that time, Yuan Zhou carried two bowls of crystal white rice over to them personally.

"Pa", he set them down on the table in front of them and said solemnly, "You understand the significance of that and are really good at eating."

"Of course. If I don't know it well, how is it possible that I come every day for meals? I'm blessed with sharp eyes," Wu Hai shrugged and said deservedly.

"That's because you are too idle everyday." Ling Hong moved his bowl to himself and grumbled unreservedly.

"You are right. It's the time for you to draw." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and agreed with Ling Hong.

"I just held my art exhibition and now I need more inspiration

and rest." Wu Hai said primly.

"You're bullsh*tting primly." Suddenly, Yuan Zhou said that.

"What?" Wu Hai was listening but he didn't understand. After all, he didn't really like technological products and was even worse than Yuan Zhou that knew nothing about it. Actually, he didn't use them much at all.

The reason why he surfed the internet was first to go to the gourmet backup group and second, to contact Zheng Jiawei.

"That's right. Boss Yuan always hits the nail on the head. You are just lazy. Don't try to look for more excuses," Ling Hong laughed and then said.

"Boss Yuan, I think you'd better not surf the internet so much. Look, how bad you are now!" Wu Hai reacted and said bitterly.

"I'm keeping pace with the times," Yuan Zhou frowned and said earnestly.

"You are doing quite right. Please pay more attention to the demand of your customers, like the indispensable problems which include prolonging the business hours and enlarging the restaurant." Man Man followed and echoed.

"I'm not capable to act as I would wish," Yuan Zhou answered simply.

"Boss Yuan, let me tell you. Man can never say he's not capable." Ling Hong tried hard not to laugh out and said kindly.

"You are thinking more than necessary. I have six abdominal muscles." Yuan Zhou was way too proud when he said that.

What a joke! He had already wanted to talk about his 6-pack, but just hadn't found an appropriate opportunity. Now was the best one he had ever encountered. After all, Ling Hong appeared to be a second generation tycoon that wouldn't do exercises as frequently as he did.

"Ho Ho. I have eight." Ling Hong made a bodybuilder's pose.

"I don't believe in your words." With a taut face, Yuan Zhou turned around and went back to the kitchen after he said that, not giving any change to Ling Hong to retort him.

He had only six abdominal muscles even if he was so handsome. How could it be possible that Ling Hong had eight? It totally didn't comply with the guidelines of the government.

Having returned to the kitchen, he used the little free time he had and started to conceive his new request for leave. How to make it perfect and meanwhile let his customers feel his sincerity, that was the question.

Chapter 370: A Serious Problem

For this serious problem, Yuan Zhou finally decided to consider it carefully in the evening.

He still needed to cook dishes earnestly for now as the most urgent thing was to satisfy the customers' appetite.

The boisterous and joyful business time was soon ending. At that moment, however, somebody walked into the restaurant while shouting something.

"What's the matter? I haven't eaten my meal. How could you say I can't eat it today? What does that mean?" A woman, who was wearing a short skirt, a slim-fit shirt and sky-high shoes, walked into the restaurant with big strides.

"I have explained to you just now. We don't wait for anybody even if you get a number ticket. We have already reminded you of that." The tall and slim guy stopped the woman and then started to explain. Some perspiration even appeared on his forehead.

"I have never seen others do business like you do. How could the number ticket expire? I'm just ten minutes late. In other places, they usually leave half an hour to wait. Only you are special and different?" The woman reached out her white and tender finger and pointed at the tall and slim guy aggressively, saying that.

"Sorry, I'm not the staff here, merely helping voluntarily. If we wait for you, there would be more people behind that would be unable to eat their meals. Therefore, we had already reminded you of that before you left. Besides, there's also the expected time shown on your ticket." The tall and slim guy stood up and said affirmatively.

"I don't care. I come here because of others' recommendation. Otherwise, who would come to such a dirty and shabby place to eat?" While saying that, the woman revealed an expression of

disgust.

"I'm sorry. My rule is that we don't wait for anybody that arrives late. Thank you." At that time, Yuan Zhou set down the dishes and said that.

Yuan Zhou said that calmly with a quite indifferent tone. The woman didn't even raise her eyes, nor did she intend to answer Yuan Zhou. She just turned her head and continued shouting at the tall and slim guy.

It was also because Yuan Zhou just looked to be a chef and the tall and slim guy, contrarily, seemed to be a person that handled matters. After all, the head chef was only seen to handle matters in star hotels. In other places, however, the chef wasn't in charge of everything except cooking.

"This young chef is really garrulous. So, you tell me how you are going to compensate me." The woman humphed discontentedly and said to the tall and slim guy.

"I'm sorry, madam. I have made myself very clear why you can't eat. Please don't harass us with unreasonable demands." The tall and slim guy just revealed an indifferent manner without the usual occupational smile on his face.

"Weird people appear every year, but there seem to be more this year." Ling Hong looked at the woman curiously.

"Brains are a good thing. Pity that many don't have it." Man Man muttered with a low voice.

"Madam, we can go out and solve your problem." Wu Hai suddenly stood up and said that.

"Right. Let's go out and solve it." Ling Hong rolled his eyes and instantly understood, thus he echoed.

"What? Afraid of me affecting your business? No, I'll stay until it's solved." The woman sneered at them and kept still there while saying.

"Not really. It's just that you have affected our good mood to savor the delicacy. Thank you for your cooperation." Yuan Zhou straightforwardly uttered and made a gesture of "Please leave".

"I won't leave unless you give me an acceptable reason." The woman revealed a manner of "What can do with me?"

"I'm sorry for the inconvenience." Yuan Zhou slightly bowed and apologized to the customers on site.

"Never mind. It's not your fault." Man Man immediately answered.

"Exactly. No need to apologize, Boss Yuan." Zhuang Xinmu swallowed up the flesh of mussels and said hurriedly. At the same time, he pulled Wu Zhou's arm.

"Yeah. Don't take the person that speaks no reason seriously." Wu Zhou nodded his head continuously.

"It doesn't matter. Boss Yuan, just concentrate on serving more dishes. We are all waiting." Instead of caring about this matter, a customer joked.

"Ok, I will." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"I will serve BBQ tonight. I would welcome you all to come and have a taste." Having thought for an instant, Yuan Zhou continued.

"Terrific!"

The customers all became delighted. For now, they were only looking forward to the BBQ.

What a joke! The BBQ only came out by luck. In order to eat the BBQ, the customers had formed a habit of going out on rainy days, just to check if Yuan Zhou was prepared to serve it.

Although it wasn't a rainy day today, a BBQ was nevertheless a pleasant dish to them.

After saying that, Yuan Zhou walked out of the kitchen and went

to the woman. Then he told her calmly, "The rules of my restaurant are all written on the wall beforehand. If you have any doubts, you can ask whatever you want to. But the spoilt behavior is not allowed."

Confidence was the best weapon to bring up a person. Therefore, Yuan Zhou revealed an influential manner and deterrence now when he talked.

"What? Do you want to be unreasonable?" The woman fell back slightly and said irritably.

"I have told you to follow us. Let's reason, shall we?" Having barely finished the meal, Su Mu went up and said jokingly.

"Good. Let's go out." Looking at the several people and the expressions of disgust of other customers, the woman agreed to that request.

"Thank you for your cooperation." Yuan Zhou nodded his head. The expression on his face was still as calm as before when he faced the woman.

"You don't need to go. Let us do it." Ling Hong stopped Yuan Zhou.

"Your work is to cook." Wu Hai stroked his small mustache and said while pointing at the kitchen.

"Go. The kitchen is your battlefield," Su Mu ridiculed smilingly.

Yuan Zhou hesitated for a while and then said with a mild expression, "Thank you".

Then, he went back to the kitchen with the mild look on his face and then started to busy cooking. The remaining lunch time still had to be treated earnestly.

"What did you prepare?" Wu Hai frowned and intended to call Zheng Jiawei here to deal with this matter. He wasn't actually experienced on that aspect.

"A lawyer, a civil lawyer. One of his characteristics is that he talks way too much." Su Mu smiled proudly.

"My brother is talking about Lawyer Jin Weijin. He can tell you one thing with dozens of different sentences." Su Yuesheng continued saying. She couldn't help trembling as she obviously remembered the fear of that bad experience.

"Besides, he can repeat it dozens of times." Su Mu also felt a slight toothache while saying that.

"Then I'm not needed, right?" Ling Hong listened to them leisurely at the side.

"You wish. Let's organize a management committee for the queue." Man Man was a person that showed good leadership. She said that once she opened her mouth.

"A committee for the queue?" The several people asked suspiciously with one accord.

Man Man turned on her phone and started to show them a plan that she had worked out in the recent few days.

...

The incident was solved very quickly. As soon as Yuan Zhou's business time barely ended, Wu Hai notified him that the matter had been solved.

Wu Hai didn't say much how this matter was solved, but just told them the woman had agreed to the rules of Boss Yuan's restaurant.

Of course, Yuan Zhou knew nothing at all about how they made her agree to his rules. Wu Hai naturally wouldn't tell them that the woman directly became dizzy in the endless and powerful words of Lawyer Jin. She didn't know what he was talking about, but just wanted to leave.

After all, no one would like to be ravaged by the endless and same words repeatedly.

Yuan Zhou thanked them again and then went upstairs to wash up and change clothes happily. With so many cute customers, Yuan Zhou felt he was so lucky, therefore he prepared to go to buy an apartment.

"Is it possible that I would meet a beautiful sales girl? Is it possible that I will be looked down by people? Maybe, I can experience the face-slapping scenes that are only mentioned in rumors." Yuan Zhou pinched the golden card and thought joyfully.

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Chapter 371: Yuan Zhou Buys A House (First)

Yuan Zhou indicated that he had been quite familiar with such tricks. What a joke! He was, anyhow, a man that read many books recently. For example, books on the making various cooked wheaten foods.

With his decent inner quality and the glistening golden card, Yuan Zhou felt he could show his generousness.

"Hua La", Yuan Zhou shut the door and went out along the side street with his personal belongings.

"Where are you going, Boss Yuan?" Wu Hai stood on the second floor and asked loudly while stroking his small mustaches.

"Buying a house." There was pretty much delight in Yuan Zhou's tone.

"The apartment upstairs is for sale now." Wu Hai pointed at the upstairs and said.

"I'm going to buy a villa," Yuan Zhou said calmly.

"So are you going to live in the villa in future, aren't you?" Wu Hai frowned.

Yuan Zhou looked at Wu Hai with a manner of "Are you stupid?" Of course, he bought the villa to live in it. If not, why would he bother?

"Normally, villas are seated in the suburbs, thus it's fairly inconvenient to come and go to your restaurant. Besides that, it would waste a lot of time and it isn't safe to live in the villa alone," Wu Hai said loudly.

"I'm going to buy one close to the city center." Yuan Zhou felt that what Wu Hai focused on was quite weird, but still, he explained.

"Boss Yuan turns out to be very rich." Wu Hai first praised him

and then started to persuade him with his theory of traffic congestion.

Wu Hai said so much to Yuan Zhou only to persuade him to buy a neighboring store. That way, it would be very near and Yuan Zhou could also enlarge his restaurant in the future.

If he bought houses in other places and lived there, he would have to spend much time on the traffic. Wu Hai wasn't a fool and he knew it would waste a lot of time.

"Boss Yuan, this is absolutely sincere advice." Although Wu Hai said so much, he didn't gasp for breath at all.

"Not until today do I know you work in sales." Yuan Zhou signed with emotion.

"Just follow my advice and you'll benefit. This apartment of mine had a great increase in value," Wu Hai said affirmatively.

"Never mind. I have made an appointment already. Let me go and have a look. Good bye." After saying that, Yuan Zhou turned around and left decidedly.

Wu Hai had probably studied the special skills from the Lawyer Jin. He talked, talked and talked so much that even Yuan Zhou was a little scared of him. However, his words were true. After all, both Ling Hong and Su Mu bought a story in this building now.

Of course, Jiang Changxi also bought one next to Su Mu, one up and the other down. Except Wu Hai, however, none of them came and lived here.

"Terrible. You have surprisingly mastered the skills of the garrulous Monk Tang." Yuan Zhou said with lingering fear.

"Master, to Yinchun Road, please." After that, he stopped a cab and reported the destination to the driver.

"Ok. Sit tight." The cab driver agreed readily and the car just whirled away.

Yinchun Road was the most prosperous site of Chengdu. As far as Yuan Zhou knew, the stores and stuff were all very expensive around here, so the houses recommended by the intermediary were definitely very expensive, too.

Yuan Zhou knew nothing about branded products, but he knew that being expensive absolutely equaled to good quality. Therefore, he was prepared to go to the intermediary on Yinchun Road.

At this time of day, people that worked were still working and hadn't got off work. So the traffic was not bad and he soon arrived there.

Having paid the fare, Yuan Zhou stood in the crowded street and became dumbfounded.

"Speaking of which, why are there so many malls around here?"

That's right. The place was indeed the most prosperous place and all around were large malls that sold the luxury goods.

Yuan Zhou, who had never been to such a place to look for intermediaries, muttered to himself thoughtfully, "It's probably in the mall."

After saying that, he started to walk to the large mall behind him.

Many people came and went outside even if it was during the working hours. The several English words on the huge posters of foreign stars hanging on the external wall were quite conspicuous. However, Yuan Zhou didn't know what they meant with his limited level of English.

Through the transparent glass doors and windows, he could directly see the inside of the mall. Then, Yuan Zhou went up and pushed the glass naturally.

One second passed. Three seconds passed. The glass door remained still as before.

"Strange. Is it opened by pulling?" Yuan Zhou looked at the glass

door with puzzlement.

He reached out his hands and pulled the door, but the door still didn't move at all.

At that moment, the shop assistant inside noticed Yuan Zhou and then gesticulated for him to enter the store from the other side.

"Damn it. I surprisingly pulled the wrong door. It turns out to be glass." Yuan Zhou ridiculed with a low voice expressionlessly.

Instantly, Yuan Zhou pulled open the glass door at the side very naturally with a faultless look without the slightest embarrassment.

"Hi. Would you like a drink?" A beautiful girl dressed in a black one-piece dress went up and asked with a smile.

"A cup of lemonade." Yuan Zhou said peacefully.

He patrolled conveniently to see if there's a seat. That's right. He thought it was a canteen or coffee shop.

"Ok. One moment, please." After the girl said that, another girl went up and inquired him.

"Sir, what do you want to see today?" With a short hair and a decent makeup, the girl looked fairly cute and pretty.

"Any recommendations?" Yuan Zhou said like a regular customer.

"Recently, Herme has launched several new styles of clothes of the current season. Do you need me to take them here and show you?" The girl led Yuan Zhou to the sofa at the side and then asked him after they sat down.

"No problem. Some leisure styles are good." Yuan Zhou didn't actually know what the English word meant.

However, it didn't stop him from understanding that this was a damn store that sold clothes.

"Why would a clothing store ask me what to drink?" Yuan Zhou ridiculed in the heart expressionlessly.

"Ok. Please wait for a moment. This is your lemonade and here is the catalog of all clothes we have." The female shop assistant arranged everything for him dutifully one after another.

They didn't cold-shoulder him due to the common clothes on Yuan Zhou's body.

Yuan Zhou leafed through the catalog absent-mindedly. He made sure to check the prices three times attentively before he realized they were either tens of thousands of RMB or hundreds of thousands of RMB.

"Ho Ho." Yuan Zhou showed no special feeling in the heart. He just estimated the amount of money in his bank account and then looked at the clothes generously when he found the money was fairly sufficient.

In a little while, the shop assistant came over to invite Yuan Zhou to check the leisure styles of clothes that he had requested. On the second floor, a few sets of single clothes and suit had been well laid out.

Yuan Zhou, who had made a big mistake, chose a set of clothes expressionlessly. After he paid the money calmly, he got out of the shop with a few bags of clothes in one hand and signed with emotion while stroking his forehead.

"I finally get to understand why women like the luxury goods so much. It's because they are expensive." Yuan Zhou looked at the SMS reminder of the deal and said.

Following that, however, Yuan Zhou said deservedly again, "A very important contest is coming. A set of expensive clothes can well represent my social status."

Then, Yuan Zhou walked around in the mall and only found out there wasn't any intermediary here but, instead, it was behind

Yinchun Road after he asked the personnel at the side.

He walked out of the warm mall and when the cold wind struck him, he instantly sobered, "The target of buying clothes has been completed. I will continue to buy the house next time."

As for if he had this goal from the very beginning, this was out of his consideration now. After all, what's done is done.

Having bought the luxury goods, Yuan Zhou walked with an extraordinarily steady pace. Even his hands didn't swing back and forth at all. He held the bag firmly and walked to the crossing step by step, preparing to take a cab back.

"Luckily, I told them I would serve BBQ today." Yuan Zhou felt it was very good.

He needed some time to calm down from spending so much money. It was the very first time for Yuan Zhou to shop in the store for luxury goods...

Chapter 372: Well-Matched Competitors

Business in the evening was the same as usual. Of course the BBQ business was even better today, because Yuan Zhou's prior notice had attracted more people to come.

Early next morning, Yuan Zhou dressed himself decently and walked to the front door with a piece of A4 paper quietly. He pasted it on the door by himself and then went to take a cab leisurely.

"Hoo. This reason is definitely just and sincere." Yuan Zhou looked back at the A4 paper pasted on the door from a distance and said complacently.

Today, Yuan Zhou was wearing the clothes that he had bought yesterday. It was a gray-white crease-free leisure suit with collar ornaments, inside of which was a black patterned shirt. This was coupled with black casual pants and a pair of pure-white casual shoes.

He looked both well-built and cultured. Plus with the uppermost button buttoned and Yuan Zhou's serious manner, his whole person carried a kind of confident and reserved temperament.

He reached out to pat on the lower hem of his clothes and then said unreservedly, "Although clothes make the man, the clothes are also picky about different people. Only a prince charming like me can look so handsome in the suit."

Yuan Zhou stood at the crossing happily, preparing to take a cab. It was still early and there were quite a few cabs. In just a little while, Yuan Zhou managed to hail a cab. Once he reported the address, the cab took whisk him away directly.

That's right. Today was the day of the competition. Yuan Zhou didn't request for overnight accommodations, therefore he needed to go there by himself. Of course, chefs that attended the contest

could ask for cars to pick them up, but they would only be picked up at 8:00 in the morning.

If it was during that time, Yuan Zhou would definitely have been beaten to death if he left his restaurant with a swagger. Yuan Zhou understood this.

"It's not good to be too popular," Yuan Zhou suddenly uttered.

The driver in the front that heard him turned his head and looked back at Yuan Zhou, saying smilingly, "Since you are dressed so spiritedly, are you going there to take part in an activity?"

The destination that Yuan Zhou had reported to him was a Five Star Hotel. It was most renowned for an oversize banquet hall. Apart from being luxurious, it was also fully functioning. Naturally, this was all heard from others by the driver.

"To eat." Yuan Zhou tilted his head and thought for a while.

In his opinion, people either ate or smelled to distinguish the food ingredients. But if he said "smell", it would sound a little weird. So Yuan Zhou specially chose the best adjective.

"Well... The breakfast there is indeed excellent." The driver indicated that Yuan Zhou's words were truly sudden. Only after a short moment did he say that.

Meanwhile, the driver couldn't help grumbling silently in his heart. Would a normal person take a cab and go to a Five Star Hotel for breakfast before 7:00 in the morning? He would give the person a score of 0 for this acting because it had wounded the soul of a person who hadn't eaten anything.

"Damn it. Why did I drive a guy that wants to act cool to the Five Star Hotel for breakfast? Stupid." The driver took a look at Yuan Zhou and thought in his heart.

"Um. Could one eat there alone?" Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of this very important question.

After all, there wasn't any other restaurant around over there.

"Yes." The driver glanced at Yuan Zhou with a curious gaze before nodding and replying.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou thanked him.

In a short moment, the car pulled off under the porch of the hotel after a braking sound of "Zi". Outside were the widely opened glass doors, where four doormen stood there straight in red uniforms. Seeing the car pull up there, they went up and bowed before opening the car door.

"Thank you." After Yuan Zhou paid the fare, he got off the car and nodded his head, expressing his gratitude.

"You are welcome. This is the license number of the cab. If you have anything left inside, we can help you get it back." A doorman said carefully and courteously.

"Ok, good." Yuan Zhou received the card from the doorman.

"Which floor is the restaurant for breakfast?" Yuan Zhou asked conveniently.

"It's right on the second floor of the main hall. I will summon somebody to take you there right now." The doorman said smilingly.

Yuan Zhou nodded his head and then in the twinkling of an eye, he saw a sign that read, "Welcome, contestant chefs." When he slightly stepped back, he also saw the conspicuous banner outside.

"Um. It seems to be a very big activity." Yuan Zhou muttered privately in his heart.

Not long after, a hotel waiter summoned by the doormen came up and took Yuan Zhou to the restaurant on the second floor.

As soon as they entered the main entrance, the four doormen standing by the side instantly uttered on one accord, "Welcome to our hotel."

Their voices were sonorous and orderly. Luckily it wasn't scary. Therefore, Yuan Zhou walked into the restaurant very calmly, even if it was his first time entering a Five Star Hotel.

No matter whom they were, all hotel personnel dressed in the work uniform greeted Yuan Zhou with a smile when they met Yuan Zhou.

All the way, Yuan Zhou heard the personnel saying frequently, "Hello, sir!", for which he would then nod his head and smile back ceaselessly.

The contest was to commence at 9:00 in the morning. Yuan Zhou had already received the procedures, which included a preliminary examination at the door and then the official one inside.

There were a total of 12 contestants. The examination at the door was more of a warm-up than an examination.

Of course, it was told by Yan Jia.

Time: 8:57; Address: entrance of the luxurious banquet hall on the fourth floor.

When Yuan Zhou walked out of the elevator, a man happened to be ahead of him. He walked to the entrance straightway and started to do the examination. When Yuan Zhou took a look there from a distance, however, he only saw four clean white plates with four pieces of radishes laid on.

"Master Chu, please reveal which season these radishes were from." A young girl that took charge of the preliminary examination at the door said with her melodious voice.

"Winter, summer, autumn, and when the spring ends and the summer begins." Chu Xiao pointed each of them while saying immediately.

After saying that, he directly strode into the banquet hall before the girl announced the results.

"So quickly." Yuan Zhou stood still and said slowly while looking at Chu Xiao enter the hall.

"He is Chu Xiao, the youngest Michelin chef in history." Suddenly a person answered from behind him.

"Hello." Yuan Zhou turned his head and found it was Yan Jia that was talking.

"Hi, Boss Yuan. According to my teacher, only you two have some sort of decent craftsmanship in this contest." Yan Jia said the totally unkind words with a kind attitude.

Words that could easily offend others.

"Um, thank you for your compliments." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and received the praise.

After all, his taste and understanding of the food ingredients came from the system and his effort. Therefore, Yuan Zhou received such a praise deservedly.

"You are welcome. I haven't savored Boss Yuan's craftsmanship, but it's really rare for my teacher to like something so much," Yan Jia said earnestly.

"Many people like my dishes." Yuan Zhou said modestly.

Although Yan Jia didn't see where the modesty came from, he likewise said in favor of him, "Of course. There's definitely no problem with Boss Yuan's craftsmanship."

Yet in the next breath, Yan Jia continued to say, "But, don't ever look down on that Master Chu."

"It's said that he has a very sharp sense of smell. Just by smelling, he could easily tell the differences of the food within three days after it matures."

"Ok. Thanks for telling me that." Yuan Zhou turned his head and looked at the place where Chu Xiao had gone just now and a joyous feeling arose in his heart.

The reason why he took part in the contest this time was to verify his culinary skills. After all, the system didn't even allow him to apply for the chef certification. Although, the main point was that he couldn't provide any proof of working as a chef before.

"Boss Yuan, we should go inside now." Seeing Yuan Zhou listening carefully, Yan Jia felt very contented in his heart and thus reminded him.

The reason why Yan Jia felt content was naturally because he knew the matter of the old foe of his teacher declaring Yuan Zhou would lose the contest. However, judging from the calm, earnest and modest manner of Yuan Zhou and the situation where his teacher enjoyed Yuan Zhou's craftsmanship so much, he wouldn't lose too terribly in the contest. Or it was also possible that it would end up in a draw.

Naturally, Yuan Zhou didn't know about Yan Jia's thoughts. He just walked to the door and waited to do the entry-level test.

However, the test this time was a little special.

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Chapter 373: Watch Me Act Cool

"Boss Yuan, please observe the four pieces of tofu carefully and then state when they are prepared under the condition that you stay 45cm away from them." The girl at the door said smilingly as always.

It was the most difficult one of all the twelve exam questions. After all, it required the extremely sensitive smell and precise judgement in the surroundings which were full of disturbance.

He was far away from it; he couldn't touch it; the tofu was even in the water. All those factors made it difficult to give a precise judgement.

Even if it was a piece of pork, the washed one and unwashed one were different, let alone the four pieces of tofu in the water.

"Boss Yuan's fortune doesn't seem to be good." Yan Jia frowned.

Of course, he knew the difficulty of this exam question, therefore he didn't enter the hall but instead waited at the side.

Although the exam question was challenging, it wasn't much too exaggerated as it was just a warm-up procedure. Therefore, Yan Jia hadn't ever thought of Yuan Zhou being unable to answer. He stayed there just to witness Yuan Zhou's abilities.

After all, the speed of answering questions could well reflect one's capability. For example, the person, Chu Xiao, just now.

While Yuan Zhou was taking part in the food ingredient contest earnestly, things were becoming chaotic at Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"Damn it. The queuing machine broke down." After a weird scream, Wu Hai paced around while stroking his small mustaches.

"Wu Hai, can you not fool around?" Man Man glared at Wu Hai discontentedly.

"No, I am not. It isn't functioning now." Wu Hai pointed at the silver machine beside him.

"That's impossible." Man Man went up quickly and checked it.

Other customers at the side also surrounded to watch curiously. Now that they first gathered in front of the queuing machine, they nevertheless couldn't spare some time to check the door to Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

"It surprisingly says not usable." Man Man said with puzzlement while looking at the big characters shown on the queuing machine.

"How strange it is! Why isn't it usable?" A customer said with a suspicious look on his face.

Wu Hai shook his head. He was taking his ID and stroking his small mustaches while looking at Man Man tinkering with the machine.

"Everybody, look there. I'm 500 degrees short-sighted and can't see clearly if it's a written request for leave," a customer suddenly said with his trembling voice.

"What? A request for leave?" Wu Hai strode to the door directly.

Pasted on the door was a piece of A4 paper blowing in the wind. When Wu Hai raised his head, he could clearly see the three conspicuous characters of "Request for Leave".

Request for Leave

I need to take two days off to show my awesomeness. If you don't believe in my words, please come to the contest area to watch.

(P.S.: I will make up for the lost business time later.)

Regards, Yuan Zhou.

"Shit. I'm blind now." Wu Hai covered his eyes and refused to believe it.

"What the hell does showing his awesomeness mean?" Wu Zhou

couldn't help uttering.

"I don't know whether or not he's awesome. I just want to know what I should do for my breakfast." Ling Hong just showed a cold face.

"Don't you feel it's also very interesting that Boss Yuan goes to show off his awesomeness?" Tang Xi, a girl who declared herself as a little fan of Yuan Zhou, said curiously at the side.

"That's right. I'm also quite curious. What kind of awesomeness is Boss Yuan going to show off?" Man Man managed to quell her impulsion to beating Yuan Zhou to death and shifted her attention.

"If not considering his abrupt request for leave, I really want to watch how Boss Yuan shows his awesomeness." While Wu Hai was speaking, he could guarantee that he definitely wasn't gnashing his teeth in anger.

"Xi Xi, you are too young. What can Compass do? He definitely goes there to act cool rather than showing off his awesomeness." Ling Hong looked at Xi Xi with a manner of "You are young and naive."

"No, no. I think Boss Yuan is a nice person," Tang Xi said smilingly.

"You deserves to be called the loyal fan." Man Man supported her forehead.

"Boss Yuan is a person who keeps his word. He wrote on the paper that he will make up for the lost business time." Finally, a customer noticed the P.S information left by Yuan Zhou.

"That would be fair. Maybe we can enjoy Boss Yuan's craftsmanship all day long some time later." These customers were always so pure and easy to be satisfied.

"Let's get to the point. What the hell does 'exchange of food ingredients' mean?" Man Man asked while pointing to the request for leave.

"A contest for distinguishing different food ingredients." Ling Hong answered.

"It's said to be a contest in which contestants compete to distinguish different food ingredients." Wu Hai and Ling Hong knew about food best. Thus, they said with one accord.

"It's surprisingly a contest. In the last contest, Boss Yuan defeated that head chef. Who will he defeat this time?" The customer was a little excited while thinking about that.

"Indeed. We have nothing to say about Boss Yuan's craftsmanship. But is there a live broadcast of the contest this time?" One of the customers asked with a caring tone.

"I heard it's a closed-door contest. But I don't actually know." Wu Hai shrugged.

"Let me ask about it." Ling Hong was anyhow a cute rich kid and it was considered quite normal for him to have a Wechat account.

Then, he took out the phone and started to ask.

However, Meng Meng had been taking a training session recently. Once asked, she stared blankly and obviously didn't know the matter. On the contrary, she asked Ling Hong many questions.

"It seems that he went there for the contest secretly!" Ling Hong thought of his breakfast this morning and still felt a little heartache.

When Ling Hong made the call, Wu Hai also called Zheng Jiawei. The almighty broker unexpectedly succeeded in getting the admission tickets, but only five tickets.

"Five people can go with me. Who wants to go?" Looking at other customers at the front door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, Wu Hai didn't say anything to them but sent this message in the group.

What a joke! Humans all had curiosity. If he said that in public, Wu Hai would probably lose his two tufts of mustaches due to

others' forcefulness."

The one who answered him first was Ling Hong. His reply was the most interesting one, "This Boss Ling doesn't need to go with others. I can go on my own."

Wu Hai rolled his eyes in annoyance and totally neglected him. Then, he chose the five people at the side that answered him earlier than others.

"Let's go quietly. Do not make any sound." Wu Hai said a rare joke.

The several people left silently and prepared to go to watch Yuan Zhou posture.

The customers and Yan Jia had two different attitudes. The customers believed that Yuan Zhou went there purely for acting cool, namely he would surely win the contest, while Yan Jia believed that ending in a draw was the best score that Yuan Zhou could reach.

Yuan Zhou, whom his customers believed to be acting cool, however, really made it.

Yuan Zhou pointed at the first piece of tofu and then said, "From the moment it's done until now, it is 3 hours and 20 minutes."

"Five hours for the second one and two hours for the third. As for the last piece, it is comparatively longer." Yuan Zhou checked the time on his phone and continued, "It has been 7 hours."

"Congratulations, Boss Yuan. Come in, please." The young girl reached out her white and tender hand, indicating that Yuan Zhou could get inside then.

Yuan Zhou nodded his head and said lightly after a few steps forward, "Speaking of which, the spring soybean is used for the fourth piece of tofu. In my opinion, spring soybean isn't suitable for making tofu."

"Haw?" The girl immediately got startled. Even before she reacted, Yuan Zhou had entered the banquet hall. During the process, he also greeted Yan Jia at the door.

Yan Jia didn't realize that until Yuan Zhou finished greeting him.

"No wonder my teacher likes Boss Yuan so much. You really are awesome!" Yan Jia signed with emotion sincerely and only then did he walk into the banquet hall.

Of course, he still thought it impossible for Yuan Zhou to defeat Chu Xiao in his heart.

The youngest three-star Michelin chef ever wasn't so easy to be outclassed.

The young girl at the door then reacted and muttered unbelievably, "How could one distinguish the production time of the food ingredients by just watching?"

"He's right. I especially used the spring soybean, but I have never expected somebody could recognize it with a mere glance." A plain-looking middle-aged man beside the young girl said smilingly.

"Really?" With her mouth wide open, the young girl said in surprise.

"Young people nowadays are getting more and more impressive." The middle-aged man didn't answer her, but just signed with emotion while looking inside the banquet hall.

Yuan Zhou, that ran away immediately after acting cool, nevertheless felt quite good...

Chapter 374: The Olfactory Sense Five Times an Ordinary Person

Yuan Zhou stepped into the banquet hall. It was brightly lit inside and everything was laid out orderly. There was only a long empty long table. Standing along the edges of the banquet hall were girls dressed in black formal dresses. Each of them were pretty and good-looking.

In front of the long table were three judges, their nameplates were Chairman of China Chefs' Alliance, Research Doctorate of Precious Food Ingredients, and Great Reviewer of Food, respectively.

Each of them appeared to be very famous. Except for the first chairman, however, the other two seemed to be no more than 40 years old in their prime.

"It turns out to be true that chefs have a certain requirement on age." Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of the royal chef that retired.

He turned his head and then saw the contestant chefs. They were quite conspicuous as they all wore blue silk ribbons on their wrist, like a decoration, while those who came to watch the competition nevertheless wore red ones. As a result, people would find it easy to recognize them correctly.

Chefs attending the contest were all fantastic masters, therefore, many of them basically knew each other. They stood together in twos and threes and chatted leisurely.

However, those who had unique and independent characters were only six people.

One was the solitary person, Yuan Zhou, who knew nobody at all. Although he wanted to verify his culinary skills, he wouldn't greet other unknown chefs rashly. He just took a cup of water and stood at the side silently.

The arrogant person Chu Xiao, however, stood at the forefront with an influential aura. He revealed a hidden meaning of "You are all nobodies!" from every inch of his body, which made people dare not to approach him and also blocked many people that wanted to get to know him.

After all, senior chefs always had their own pride. No one would like to go up and seek embarrassment.

The others were, naturally, Lee Yanyi and Xing Min who would surely argue with each other whenever they met. The air between them was fairly tense. Therefore, their students had to comfort them respectively nervously.

Xin Min said again, "Old fellow, let's have a contest between men if you are really capable."

"An aged man still thinks himself a young man in the green?" Lee Yanyi gave a cold look at Xin Min, without an extra glance.

Then, Xin Min became irritated again and their students started to calm them down again.

However, the person who was really nervous about that was Xing Min's assistant. Because every time Lee Yanyi got offended, he would give a fatal answer indifferently, which made Xing Min angrier.

Once the time went to 9:05, an old man whose nameplate had a title of "Chairman of China Chefs' Alliance" stood up.

"Everyone, now I invite you to come and look at these food ingredients. Communication comes before the competition," the aged man said vigorously.

Once he spoke, the contestants immediately stopped talking and then started to listen to him carefully.

"That's right. Communication comes first." The major chefs chimed in one after another.

"Yeah. Anyway, I will be the winner. That's definitely out of doubt." Chu Xiao's words instantly made all speechless.

"This young man is really young and aggressive! The winner might have been you in previous years. However, this year, that isn't for sure." Lee Yanyi humphed and said bluntly.

"Oh? Do you mean it's probably him?" Chu Xiao looked at Lee Yanyi earnestly with his fingers pointing at Yuan Zhou.

Chairman Mao had once said that, "Believe that you can triumph over your opponents but never underestimate them."

Although Chu Xiao didn't despise Yuan Zhou, he didn't attach enough importance to him. He was just a little bit interested.

"You are right." Lee Yanyi nodded his head.

Nonetheless, Chu Xiao only smiled faintly and had no other reaction.

"I'm sorry. I don't like to be pointed at by others. Please put your finger down. Making an empty show of strength could only make you weaker. Besides, you shouldn't use your fingers when it has nothing to do with the cuisines." Yuan Zhou frowned and said with a solemn expression.

"Oh?" On hearing that, Chu Xiao looked toward Yuan Zhou with a surprised manner.

"I think we can get started now. I'm No. 4. What about you?" Yuan Zhou didn't actually pay attention to Chu Xiao's gaze which was showing slight interest, but just asked straightway.

"Do you want to compete against me?" Chu Xiao felt a little funny.

Ever since he made a name for himself, no one had dared to compete against him on this aspect, because his olfactory sense was five times more sensitive than ordinary people. After his continuous training, he could distinguish the origin, time,

maturity degree, and freshness of each food ingredient. On that aspect, no one could outmatch him.

"You are wrong. This is the true meaning of the contest." Yuan Zhou said calmly, without any desire to win.

"You seem to be quite confident. So it was the difficult problem at the door that gave you confidence?" Of course, Chu Xiao recognized Yuan Zhou's confidence in winning the contest; therefore, he said with a joking tone.

"I think the contest should commence now. After all, it isn't good to waste time." Yuan Zhou didn't pay any attention to Chu Xiao anymore. Instead, he just checked the time on his phone and said lightly.

"Interesting." Chu Xiao didn't really care about Yuan Zhou's silence. With a gaze showing interest, he just lowered his head and touched his cuff.

"Yeah, this Master is right. We ought to start the contest now." Seeing the several people confront each other with daggers, the chairman of China Chefs' Alliance didn't stop them but only came out to quell the incident when Yuan Zhou reminded him.

It wasn't because he attached no importance to this contest, but because he believed that young chefs should naturally have their own air of arrogance and pride. Besides, they would never go overboard as these old men were still there.

If they didn't care about these things at all, most of these people would probably not make such progress.

After all, only the reasonable desire to excel over others would enable people to improve.

"The first round will start with this stuff. Master No. 1, please come over here and tell the answers." The chairman directly signaled that the contest was to start.

This contest had a very weird rule that was different from others.

It had no judges but also had judges because the contest was about who knew more food ingredients.

The organization committee of the contest would first select 500 food ingredients. Then the contestants from No. 1 to 12 were required to go up to distinguish the origin, maturity, and the time that was most suitable for the ingredient to be made into a dish. The first ingredient would be distinguished by Master No. 1. If he made it, the next master would distinguish the next ingredient. If he didn't make it, the next master would continue to distinguish the first ingredient.

If he didn't succeed for three continuous times, he would be eliminated. When the food ingredients were all distinguished, the remaining contestants would attend the contest on the next day.

Such a method was actually not fair, but the chairman believed that luck was also a part of one's capability, therefore the number 4 obtained by Yuan Zhou was a good one.

However, Chu Xiao's number was even ahead of Yuan Zhou's. He was No. 2.

What appeared first were several greenish-blue wild peppers, which were fairly easy to be distinguished.

The contestant No. 1 was a tall young man who wore a pair of big glasses and looked rather ordinary. He went up calmly and observed it carefully. According to the rules, he could neither touch it nor get close to smell. About 1 minute later, he started to speak without stopping.

"Wild pepper, also called *Zanthoxylum schinifolium*, *Zanthoxylum armatum*, *Zanthoxy piperitum*, cayenne pepper and red peppercorns. It even appeared in some ancient poems. It's best used for cooking dishes with a fragrant and spicy taste. The wild pepper in red or greenish-blue color can both be used. The maturity season is from July to September."

"As for the origin of the wild pepper, judging from its strong fragrance, it's supposed to be produced from the area of Chengdu. The taste of the wild pepper there is the most authentic." The young man in glasses said that confidently and after that, he prepared to step back.

"I'm sorry, but I can't agree." Chu Xiao took a step forward and said straightforwardly.

Yuan Zhou nevertheless just stood there silently and had no reaction. Instead, he was more interested in the several people that suddenly entered the scene.

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Chapter 375: Conflict

Those who had just entered the banquet hall were, naturally, the six people including Wu Hai and Ling Hong. Seeing Yuan Zhou turn his head and look at them, Tang Xi even waved her hand, greeting him excitedly.

"Hi, Boss Yuan." Tang Xi moved her lips without making any sound out.

When he saw Chu Xiao's manner of "I'm going to act cool now", Yuan Zhou stepped toward the door decidedly.

Yuan Zhou was right. Chu Xiao really intended to act cool.

"More precisely, this thing should be called *Zanthoxylum schinifolium*. And there are truly differences between the two of them." Even before others agreed with him, Chu Xiao straightforwardly started to say.

"Master Chu, I just mentioned that. It indeed has a name of *Zanthoxylum schinifolium*." The chef wearing glasses said with a frown. He wasn't a person easy to deal with, either.

"I'm going to talk about the differences between the two of them. If you know that, you can also say it by yourself." Chu Xiao reached out his hand and made a gesture of "Go ahead".

The chef in glasses didn't look good. He turned his head and looked at the three judges.

"Let him speak. Let's see what he can tell. But Master Liu, what you said is also right." The middle-aged man with his nameplate Great Gourmet on the table took a look at Chu Xiao with a funny gaze and then said to the chef in glasses softly.

"Fine. Let's listen to the enlightening remarks of Master Chu." The chef in glasses gnashed his teeth while speaking.

"Thank you." Chu Xiao first nodded his head to express his

gratitude and then uttered.

"*Zanthoxylum schinifolium* is the dry peel of the green pepper of Rutaceae. It's mostly used for medicine. They are 2 or 3 fruit pods that are schizogenous at the upper part. The diameter is 3-4mm with the top having a small and short proboscis."

"The surface of the outer peel takes on a greyish green, yellowish green, or brownish green color. It has a reticulate pattern and small oil glands, most of which are sagged; the endocarp is smooth, greyish white or light yellow. It is separated from the outer peel or just curls up. The oval-shaped seeds remain a glossy black color. The smell is fragrant while the taste is slightly sweet with a spicy aftertaste. This is just the basic knowledge of the *Zanthoxylum schinifolium*."

Chu Xiao said that without ceasing.

"As for the red wilder pepper, it's the dry peel of the wild pepper of Rutaceae, used for both food and medicine. It is a kind of spherical fruit pod which splits from the top along the abdominal dorsal slit which takes on the shape of a double disc with one same base. The diameter is 4 or 5mm. At the base of the fruit, there is a small fruit stem and 1-2 undeveloped petal-shaped cores."

"The outer peel is reddish brown or magenta and will shrink. It has dotted bulges and sagging oil glands while the endocarp is smooth, light yellow and thinly leathery. Usually, it's separated from the outer peel at the base and curls up. However the remaining seeds are black in color and contain a special fragrance. The taste is spicy and hot, lasting for a long while."

"So the two kinds of wild pepper have great differences on the aspects of both appearance and texture," Chu Xiao concluded affirmatively.

"Even so, I'm not wrong." the chef in glasses felt his own explanation was only simple rather than wrong.

"Your greatest mistake now is to say you are not wrong." Chu Xiao turned his head and looked at the chef in glasses and then he continued, "Due to the different texture, the two kinds of wilder pepper are suitable for cooking different dishes."

"The red peppercorns have a strong taste and thus is suitable for cooking dishes with a heavy peppery taste and spicy flavor. For example, the Spicy Chicken. In contrast, the *Zanthoxylum schinifolium* is suitable for cooking not only numb-tasting dishes but also dishes with a refreshing fragrance. For example, the Wok-Fried Pork with Chili." Chu Xiao said unhurriedly word by word.

"Master Chu, you really have a unique hobby," the man in glasses said, gnashing his teeth.

The hobby mentioned by the man in glasses was naturally about the matter of counteracting his words. Right after that, he turned around, opened the door and then left.

"Sir, the rest area is right ahead." The serving girl at the door said smilingly.

"No need. I'm getting my car and leaving." The man in glasses himself felt ashamed to stay here longer.

He was wrong at the very first one and was furthermore ridiculed for no reason. Naturally, he was reluctant to stay here longer.

"Anything that's too stiff is easy to break." Lee Yanyi said thoughtfully after the chef in glasses left. No one knew if he was talking about Chu Xiao that failed to show restraint or the chef in glasses that had left.

"Show me the second one. It's my turn." Chu Xiao didn't care about the deeds of the man in glasses, but instead started to urge the serving girl.

The second ingredient was ordinary bean sprouts that contained some uncommon points. Coincidentally, the opening topic for Yuan Zhou was the tofu while the first one for Chu Xiao was bean

sprouts.

"Boss Yuan, that person is so arrogant!" Tang Xi that had watched the contest all along said to Yuan Zhou with a low voice.

"Um. He's very confident." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"This guy must be Chu Xiao. When did he come back from abroad?" Ling Hong suddenly broke in.

"Do you know him?" Yuan Zhou didn't actually know Chu Xiao, therefore he just felt indifferent to this person. Of course, even if Yuan Zhou knew him, he wouldn't feel he was special.

What a joke! However awesome Chu Xiao was, had he ever seen the Xiang pig from Wuzhi Mountain, the Mangalica, and the extinct beef with fragrance? And also top-notch mountain spring water free from any pollution used just for cleaning vegetables?

Besides that, Yuan Zhou's culinary skills were also very good. Life or death is of no importance, if one is challenged, one should take it on.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou wasn't afraid of him at all, even if this person had great fame. After all, with the opportunity offered by the system plus his own efforts, Yuan Zhou believed that he was even more awesome.

"Of course. This guy is the best painter among his peers." Ling Hong pointed to Wu Hai and then continued, "As for cooking, it must be this Master Chu, Chu Xiao. He's way too famous."

"Have you ever tasted it?" Wu Hai was fairly curious about this question.

"Only once. I waited for 8 months only before I got my turn." Ling Hong nodded his head without doubt.

"How's the taste?" Wu Hai said to the point.

Yuan Zhou just looked at Chu Xiao lightly, not revealing any nervousness on his face. Nonetheless, it contrarily made Ling

Hong who intended to tell the story bit by bit a little speechless.

"Say something about it." Man Man asked curiously at the side.

"I think it is definitely not as good as Boss Yuan's dishes." Tang Xi pouted her lips and revealed a manner of "Yuan Zhou is the most awesome"

"You are right. It is indeed not as good as Boss Yuan's. However, he is absolutely not inferior to Boss Yuan on the aspect of craftsmanship," Ling Hong sighed and said that.

"If his dishes aren't as good as Boss Yuan's, his craftsmanship is naturally inferior to that of Boss Yuan." Tang Xi said angrily.

"No. I just feel the good taste of Boss Yuan's dishes is not only displayed in craftsmanship." Ling Hong brought out his thought.

"Thank you for your compliment." Yuan Zhou added timely.

"Anyway, I feel Boss Yuan's dishes are the best. Wait, that guy is to going to start now. Boss Yuan, please hurry up and see if he's really that awesome." Tang Xiao shouted with a low voice.

"Go ahead. Know the enemy and know yourself, and then you can fight a hundred battles without defeat." Man Man made a gesture of "Come on".

"Go." Then, the customers that came to watch said with one accord.

"This scene is really like 'Go, Pikachu'." Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of that in his heart.

As if he would really become the cute animal that was able to discharge electricity after he went there.

Yuan Zhou concentrated to get rid of the terrible thought and then walked forward steadily to see how Chu Xiao judged the ingredient.

Just now, the chef in glasses had used the most ordinary way, that was, to judge it carefully by looking, smelling, asking, and

feeling the pulse like in traditional Chinese medical science.

Nevertheless, Chu Xiao walked up to the designated place and straightforwardly uttered after staying there for about 20 second.

"The bean sprouts are made from spring soybean as the raw material. It takes six days to sprout. When it sprouts, the casement cloth is used to cover it. However, the odor is too strong. I suggest you should use the tasteless cambric." Chu Xiao said only these sentences.

Just by that, however, he was already way too cool. The bean sprouts itself would emit strong fragrance of soybean and also the taste of fermentation. The casement cloth was even used to cover these bean sprouts used for the contest. Normally, there wouldn't be any taste at all.

Under such circumstances, Chu Xiao could tell it used spring soybean and casement cloth. One could imagine how awesome he was just by that.

However, Yuan Zhou sometimes had some devilish interests. Now that it was his turn to say something, he decided to act cool.

Yuan Zhou, "..."

Chapter 376: Yuan Zhou's Face-slapping

"This is the soybean that is at the transition time of spring to summer rather than a pure spring soybean. About one-third of them are from that period." Yuan Zhou brought out his judgement calmly.

"You are right, but I haven't finished." Chu Xiao turned his head, taking a look at Yuan Zhou, and then continued.

"Since this master has said that, I don't say it anymore." Chu Xiao just glanced at Yuan Zhou lightly, not intending to mention his name.

"This pot of bean sprouts has been handled by three people and all of them are girls. I suggest the females who touch the food ingredients not to use perfume," Chu Xiao shrugged and then continued saying that.

He didn't feel uncomfortable at all for Yuan Zhou's interruption just now. After all, he would also correct it directly if he saw others giving wrong information.

"I'm done. That's all." Chu Xiao directly turned around and went back to his own position.

He would never admit that he might have made mistakes.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou was murmuring the different scents of the few brands of perfume silently.

"Speaking of which, these perfumes definitely have their own names. I seem to know very little of that." Yuan Zhou knew the tastes of these perfumes, but he just couldn't bring their names out.

He made up his mind inwardly and prepared to broaden his scope of knowledge after he went back. It was always good to know more.

Yuan Zhou was the fourth contestant, therefore he didn't walk very far away.

"My luck today is surprisingly so good." Yuan Zhou signed voicelessly, thinking that even such an unusual thing could appear when he saw the stuff on the plate.

On the plate was a flower and two leaves under it as the background, which appeared fairly beautiful.

"Loosestrife." Yuan Zhou brought out the name with certainty.

"The vegetable is indeed seldom seen now. We are eating it far less nowadays." The chairman of China Chefs' Alliance stroked his goatee and said smilingly.

"Yeah. I tasted it once a few days ago and the taste was still fresh in my memory." The middle-aged man, whose nameplate was reading Research Doctorate of Precious Ingredient Research, pushed his glasses upward and said earnestly.

"Little Dong, you are too young. How dare you are so bold to eat whatever you are interested in?" The chairman of the alliance said with a smile.

"You are right. I still like the processed ones. If not, it must be very fresh ones." Judging from his words, the great gourmet was known to be picky about things.

"The vegetable is produced in Xin'an and the smoothest and most tender ones are from the upper reaches of Xin'an River. It's a perennial herbal Asteraceae plant that likes warm surroundings. Its leaves are similar to the mother chrysanthemum, therefore it's also named as the Stelpnolepiscentiflora. When it blossoms, the flower is small and white with a lustre alike to that of pearls. That's why it's named as the Loosestrife."

Yuan Zhou was used to revealing the phenotypic traits of the vegetables according to the system's introductions.

"What the hell is the matter with this guy? Isn't he a chef? Why

do I feel like he is actually a botanist?" The chefs off the stage discussed with a low voice.

"You are right. He's not Chu Xiao. Is it really necessary for him to bring out even the scientific name of a vegetable?" A chef frowned and said slightly discontentedly.

He had decent reasons to feel dissatisfied. For Chu Xiao to speak like that was still acceptable as they had been used to his posturing ways and totally surpassed them. However, why could a person that suddenly appeared make a long-winded speech without any preparations?

Wouldn't that indicate that they are quite incapable?

However, Yuan Zhou continued talking even before they finished their complaints.

"The vegetable in front of us looks beautiful and plump, but it isn't grown in the wild. In this season, only the Guangdong area has the wild-growing ones. If it was transported here, it wouldn't be so fresh. So the vegetable is produced from the greenhouse in the suburbs. These few plants of Loosestrife should have been planted in the middle, which brought such strong scent."

"It is mostly used in Teochew cuisines. Nevertheless, I think there's no need to cultivate it in water next time as it will lose the taste of soil." Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"Sh*t. Both of them are like dogs. No, even the dogs don't have that sensitive smell. Their noses are definitely not human's." The chef said speechlessly while looking at the mud on the roots of the Loosestrife.

The roots were caked full of mud. God knows how to judge it to be hydroponically grown.

The chefs below the stage were all stupefied.

"Old Lee, you finally got a pair of sharp eyes this time. He's doing fairly well in revealing such an obvious pitfall out." Xing Min

switched on a new round of ridiculing mode.

"So you also got it?" Lee Yanyi asked back lightly.

"Of course. This old man also has sharp eyes." Xing Min turned red and retorted.

"Ho Ho." Lee Yanyi laughed with a sarcastic tone without saying any word.

"What do you mean, Old Lee? If you agree, we can have a contest personally today. I will let you know my failure last time was an accident." Xing Min was instantly irritated. He rolled his sleeves and prepared to go up to him.

However, Lee Yanyi just sat there quietly as if to have nothing to do with it. He occasionally looked at the rostrum and then at Yuan Zhou, but kept away from Xing Min.

That attitude immediately irritated Xing Min. He jumped up right away and said with a loud voice.

"Damn it. You dare to look down upon me. Old Lee, you stand up. Let's have a contest now." Seeing Lee Yanyi not look at him at all, Xing Min took a few steps forward and prepared to beat him.

"Sir, look. The results are published." His assistant revealed a helpless manner and had only to point at the front to divert his attention.

It turned out that the first round of the contest had finished while the two old men quarreled. The chairman was declaring the candidates that were to take part in the contest the next day.

"No need to look at the results. It's definitely Chu Xiao that was the most awesome." Without turning his head, Xing Min prepared to fight against Lee Yanyi.

"Such a dim-sighted old fool!" Lee Yanyi took a glimpse at Xing Min with a gaze of dislike.

It was a manner of total indifference.

"Old Lee, you'd better state it clearly. Who is dim-sighted?" Xing Min said without a decent manner.

"You look for yourself." This time, Lee Yanyi answered Xing Min with sympathy. He pointed at the front and signaled him to look at the result by himself.

"I'm looking. Undoubtedly, my apprentice is the best." Xing Min muttered.

"Only an apprentice taken late in life." Lee Yanyi added mercilessly.

"Even so, he is still a talented apprentice taken late in life." Xing Min cared about that least as it was indeed true. However, he was still proud.

"Look at the results now and then talk to me." Lee Yanyi humphed.

In the banquet hall, there was a projector on which the results appeared. Only three contestant chefs were qualified to take part in the precious ingredients identification for the next day, because these three people had a great gap with others.

Chu Xiao: 148 kinds

Yuan Zhou: 148 kinds

Fang Tian: 63 kinds

The remaining contestants could basically only tell 20 or 30 kinds. The gap was too great, therefore the judges chose these three people. Even among the three, however, the gap was also very big.

"The young man called Yuan Zhou was recommended by you?" Xing Min stared at Lee Yanyi closely.

"That's right. He is just showing the most ordinary performance today." Lee Yanyi revealed a faint smile on his solemn face and then said with a provoking tone.

"You just keep showing off like that. He definitely wouldn't be able to tell a few precious food ingredients tomorrow." Xing Min humphed and continued.

"What a pity that he is following you! If he studies something from me, I can guarantee he'll be the next Chu Xiao." Xing Min said affirmatively.

"Excuse me, but I have never studied from anybody." Yuan Zhou who was passing by them suddenly said that.

Then, the two elderly men stood gazing at one another. With such a superb craftsmanship, he surprisingly had no teacher. Was he really more awesome than Chu Xiao?

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Chapter 377: Face-to-face Confrontation

"Little brat, what do you mean? Isn't this old man your instructor?" Xing Min reacted first.

"You are right." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Even if I'm not his instructor, you aren't either." Lee Yanyi went up and directly interrupted Xing Min's words.

"How would you know that? What if the young man feels that I look kind? What do you know about it?" Xing Min fought back without any hesitation.

"That guy is too prideful. Do you think I wouldn't know that?" Lee Yanyi revealed a manner of "I know everything."

"Are you telling the truth? I feel that he is way too modest." Xing Min didn't reason with Lee Yanyi at all when he met him.

"The older you are, the more muddled you become." Lee Yanyi said after a humph.

Yuan Zhou watched them for a while at the side silently and then said softly to the two helpless assistants, "I'm leaving first. Goodbye."

"Take care, Boss Yuan." Yan Jia was more familiar with him and thus he nodded directly.

Xing Min's assistant nevertheless just nodded his head before he went back to his teacher straightforwardly.

What a joke! If their assistants didn't stay with them, there would probably be bloodshed this time.

Yuan Zhou greeted his customers first and then went back into his own room for a rest.

Among the customers that followed him here, only one person left besides Man Man, Tang Xi, Wu Hai, Ling Hong and Gao Shuai. That person was Chen Wei.

Chen Wei is said to have affairs to deal with in the evening, so he went back and prepared to come the next morning.

"So interesting! Wonder if there will be any food ingredients that I have never seen tomorrow?" Yuan Zhou asked himself expectantly before he went to bed.

The mornings of Chengdu were usually foggy when it was cold. Actually, it wasn't smog, but thin fog, like a fine gauze, enveloping the entire city.

"I forgot to set the alarm clock." Yuan Zhou muttered vaguely while sitting on the bed.

After a short moment, he took the phone and found that it was still early. It was the exact time for him to jog.

"I'm so smart." While Yuan Zhou was wearing the sportswear, he felt lucky that he slept after buying the sportswear last night.

"Hu La", the cold water on his face made him more clear-headed.

Yuan Zhou muttered while stroking his own face, "It's said that man will get more handsome if he uses cold water to wash the face."

After that, Yuan Zhou went downstairs to jog. He didn't really like doing morning exercises in the gym of the hotel, thus he directly went to the garden of the hotel to jog.

One lap, two laps. In a little while, Yuan Zhou encountered a person, Chu Xiao.

He was also dressed in the grey sportswear and appeared in the garden.

"It's not fearful to wear the same clothes, but whoever is ugly will be embarrassed." Yuan Zhou took a deep breath and muttered inwardly.

Although Chu Xiao appeared to look like a prodigal, his appearance was still considered to be qualified. However, Yuan

Zhou had a six-pack and a solemn temperament as well as a mature uncle style. On the aspect of appearance, the two people were equally matched.

"Hey, you are also jogging?" Unexpectedly, Chu Xiao greeted Yuan Zhou voluntarily.

"Yes." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"You can probably increase your knowledge in the precious ingredient match today." Chu Xiao always spoke so bluntly.

He had known that Yuan Zhou was merely the boss of a tiny restaurant. Although he made an amazing performance yesterday, the food ingredients were all ordinary ones and most of them were frequently seen. Therefore, Chu Xiao really didn't mean anything else.

He just believed the match today could help Yuan Zhou to increase his knowledge.

"Um. If you want to broaden your scope of knowledge, you can come to my small restaurant." After a nod, Yuan Zhou said with an earnest expression.

"You can use strange ingredients to cook strange cuisines?" Chu Xiao asked curiously.

"No. Just some ingredients and craftsmanship that you have seldom seen," Yuan Zhou said modestly.

"Haw-haw-haw. Things that I have seldom seen?" Chu Xiao shook his head and couldn't help laughing out.

"Yes. Also some others that even I have never seen." Yuan Zhou's expression always looked so earnest.

"That's normal." Chu Xiao felt it was quite normal for Yuan Zhou not to have seen that. But for him, it must be a funny joke.

Chu Xiao had stayed in so many luxurious hotels since he was eleven and hence had seen a lot of precious food ingredients.

However, he never knew that Yuan Zhou had a thing called "System".

"Ok. See you in the contest." Yuan Zhou nodded his head without giving an affirmative or negative answer. Since his exercise time had ended, he directly said goodbye to him.

"Spend some more time on studying." Chu Xiao said like a predecessor.

Yuan Zhou laughed ironically behind him, but he didn't try to correct Chu Xiao. Instead, he went back to the hotel straightforwardly to change clothes and prepared to have breakfast in the cafeteria.

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"A nice breakfast." When Yuan Zhou got to the cafeteria, he sighed with emotion while looking at the abundant and healthy breakfasts.

The breakfast was cooked with the ingredients that they had guessed yesterday. Those that could be cooked were all made into the breakfast today. Of course, the dinner last night had also been cooked with those 500 food ingredients.

Similar to the opening time yesterday, the contest today also commenced at 9:00 sharp.

The several people including Wu Hai arrived very early today. They sat in the front row ahead of time and just waited to watch how Yuan Zhou act cool.

The preliminary test at the door was removed today, therefore Yuan Zhou entered the banquet hall earlier than yesterday by five minutes. As soon as he entered the door, his great fan, Tang Xi, spoke.

"Come on, Boss Yuan!" Tang Xi encouraged him bluntly.

"Go ahead." Wu Hai and Ling Hong pretended to be indifferent to

him.

"Um." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"I hereby announce the exchange activity of the precious food ingredients commences now." The chairman of China Chefs' Alliance changed into a marine blue business suit today, which made him appear much younger. He announced straightway.

"After the exchange activity, a small part of the precious ingredients won't be used to cook dishes. Please follow the rules." The Precious Ingredients Research PhD stood up right after that and then said.

"Correct. Contestant No. 1, please start now." The chairman of the alliance carried a smile on his face as usual.

"One moment, please." It was Fang Tian who was at the third position.

"What's the matter, Master Fang?" The chairman looked at Fang Tian amiably.

Fang Tian appeared very thin and was about 35 years old. He was quite cultured and likewise talked softly. He didn't actually seem to be a chef at all.

"I want to watch the whole course at close quarters, but don't take part in the contest anymore. I hope you can approve of that." Fang Tian said straightforwardly without hesitation.

"Why?" The chairman looked at the other two people at the side and then asked.

"These two people are all young talents. It's inappropriate for a middle-aged man to compete against them." Fang Tian shrugged and said with a free and easy tone.

"Please, let us discuss it." The chairman didn't agree to him immediately.

"Ok. Please do approve of my request." Fang Tian slightly bowed.

"One moment, please." The chairman signaled to turn off the microphone and only then did they start to discuss.

The banquet hall was lost in silence for a while. Some of the chefs that had failed yesterday didn't understand that while some others nodded their head approvingly.

That's right. The chefs that had failed the contest yesterday could also come to watch. The reason why the precious ingredients were so precious was that even the chefs seldom saw them, let alone the varieties of those precious ingredients.

However, they could only watch the whole course off the stage. The request proposed by Fang Tian was fairly good based on the aspect of increasing knowledge.

Five minutes later,

"Quiet, please." The chairman said.

"After our joint discussion, we decide to approve of Fang Tian's request. Meanwhile, we specially allow him to watch at close quarters without touching." The chairman announced the result.

Then, there were only Yuan Zhou and Chu Xiao left in the contest. Now, it became the competition between the two of them. It was just that who, among them, would be the one to increase knowledge?

Yuan Zhou was quite expectant!

Chapter 378: Precious Food Ingredients Contest

"This will be interesting." Chu Xiao revealed a meaningful smile.

"It's indeed interesting." Yuan Zhou couldn't bear Chu Xiao's look all along and had always felt he deserved a beating. Now the opportunity was here.

"Do you two have any opinion?" The chairman of China Chefs' Alliance turned his head and asked Yuan Zhou and Chu Xiao.

The two of them stared at each other for an instant and both shook their head with one accord.

"No problem." "That is just to my satisfaction." Yuan Zhou answered decently while Chu Xiao was arrogant as always.

"Since one person is out, the rules have to be changed, too. You definitely have no different opinions, right?" The chairman smiled slyly. Even before the two persons answered him, he continued to say.

"Let me declare the new rules." The chairman stroked his beard.

"You two will come up together to observe the ingredients and see who can reveal the origin, effect, eating method or cooking method faster."

"Ok." The two persons answered at the same time this time.

"Alright. Then let's get started now." The chairman reached out his hands and indicated they could start now.

"This way, please." A girl went up to them and led them forward.

The ingredients weren't put on the plate this time, but were sealed up completely. A full range of protection was offered in case of any damage.

"This vegetable is very sensitive of people's breath. Please be

careful." The girl smiled and said.

"No worries. Just uncover it." Looking at the ritual girl with a smile, Chu Xiao said to her.

"Ok. Please look carefully." The girl nodded her head and then uncovered it quickly.

Once the cover was removed, there appeared a clear glass-like round-bottom flask. There was a lid over the opening with an oxygen tube at the side, which was transferring the oxygen inside with a sound of "Gu Lu Gu Lu."

"*Ottelia acuminata*?" While Master Fang was still guessing what it was with a puzzled expression, Yuan Zhou and Chu Xiao said with one accord.

"It seems that both of you know what it is. Who wants to speak first?" The chairman said smilingly while stroking his beard.

"Please." Occasionally, Chu Xiao also had polite moments, like now.

Usually, the polite remarks were only for courtesy. After that, the other part would normally respond in the same way. Only this process was reasonable.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou nodded his head without hesitation.

Then, Chu Xiao became a little stupefied. This was one of the rare times where he had shown courtesy, but this was the result?

"*Ottelia acuminata* is an endangered species." When Yuan Zhou spoke of that, he looked at the comments.

In his opinion, such an endangered species shouldn't be regarded as precious.

"It is a kind of underwater plant that can live and grow in water at a maximum depth of 4 meters. It has extremely high requirements for the quality of the water. The water must be clear and transparent and furthermore, must be rich in mineral

substances and growth elements. Only with those conditions could it grow." Yuan Zhou said while pointing at the root stock under water.

"*Ottelia acuminata* is a little strange. Even on one plant, the shape of leaves and the length of petiole and scape have obvious variations based on the depth of water and the speed of the current. Normally, its blossoming phase is from May to October. In the warm areas, however, it might blossom all year long. This wild vegetable is a kind of species found only in China." While saying that, Yuan Zhou took a look at Chu Xiao.

A kind of species only found in China. This man seemed to be quite familiar with that.

"Indeed. But in foreign countries, people take it as a green and healthy dish because of the harsh living atmosphere. So my restaurant will occasionally provide the dish." Chu Xiao shrugged.

"That is indeed so. Both of you are outstanding masters. But for many masters off the stage, this is the first time they have seen such a precious wild vegetable. It is extremely difficult to be seen and quite delicate and will wither very easily." The Research Doctorate of Precious Ingredient said while pushing the glasses upward.

"Pollution is getting more and more serious. Wherever there's such a wild vegetable, the air must be very good. Perhaps, we'll never see it again in the future." The Great Gourmet also nodded his head to chime in.

"Exactly." The chairman also nodded his head. Right after that, however, he continued, "Okay. I have already known this stuff isn't that difficult for you two. Let's change to another one. Move it carefully, otherwise we will be unable to consume it later."

After saying that, the old man blinked mischievously.

"This seems to be only a warm-up." Yuan Zhou said inwardly.

"We are playing for keeps this time." The chairman showed them the tray carried to their back with a smile.

This time, the serving girl appeared much more relaxed. There were a round tray and a clear glass container that was tightly sealed on it. It was only from the bottom that people knew it was a glass container.

"Please check." The girl set down the tray on the table lightly and uncovered the glass container.

In the container was the clear and transparent rice. That's right. It was just like the ordinary rice that people ate in normal times. Besides, it was a little thinner and longer than the ordinary rice.

"Rice?" Chu Xiao looked at it carefully.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou just observed silently at the side without saying anything.

"Master Chu, of course it is rice." The chairman stroked his beard and nodded his head for affirmation.

"Judging from the beautiful luster plus the faint fragrance, it's supposed to be a kind of tribute rice?" Chu Xiao continued saying that.

However, it was the first time that he had judged one thing with such a tone of uncertainty.

Indeed. It was quite difficult to guess what it was since it was carried up to him without any clues.

Even though Chu Xiao believed himself to be knowledgeable, he didn't have much contact with tribute rice. After all, China was different from other countries. Even if people had good stuff, they would prefer to hide it and wouldn't like to talk much about it.

"Keep going." The three judges neither denied nor affirmed his word, but just signaled him to continue.

However, the three judges felt fairly proud. It wasn't easy at all to

get a container of the genuine rice and thus it was very common that they couldn't guess it right.

"It is at the same level as Xiangshui Tribute Rice, but is actually not. It should be Zhefang Rice. The color and fragrance deserve the name." When Chu Xiao brought out Zhefang Rice, he said with a fairly affirmative tone.

"Haw-haw." The old chairman burst into laughter. Just when he prepared to say something, he was interrupted by Yuan Zhou's answer.

"The color of Zhefang Rice is as white and tender as jade. Its taste is fragrant and soft when used for cooking plain rice and the texture would be sticky but not greasy when used for making porridge." Yuan Zhou first brought out the characteristics of Zhefang Rice and then continued to say the following words.

"However, the rice grains in front now are a bluish-white, like jade and besides, it looks as dense as the sand. If used for cooking the plain rice, its pulp would absolutely be like breast milk. When cooked, the rice will be shiny and overflowing with fragrance; the rice grains will be clear and transparent; the taste will be delicate and delicious. Such a rice will be able to raise one's appetite best and is beneficial to the spleen and stomach." Yuan Zhou said clearly and logically while pointing at the rice in the container.

"Then what rice do you think it is?" Chu Xiao asked with a sarcastic tone rather than a serious question.

He just found it hilarious. He had, anyhow, been to Diaoyutai State Guesthouse while Yuan Zhou was merely an inferior chef working in a tiny restaurant. Even if he was so knowledgeable, he hadn't really seen genuine tribute rice before. At least he had the fortune to taste it once before.

"You still don't know what it is?" Yuan Zhou asked naturally.

This made Chu Xiao choke.

"It is Sanyi Tribute Rice. Ever since the First Emperor of Qin Dynasty, it has been designated as the tribute rice for the imperial family." Seeing Chu Xiao become dumbfounded, Yuan Zhou shook his head and brought out the answer.

"Damn it! You look so wild and arrogant." Chu Xiao laughed scornfully while looking at Yuan Zhou and saying that. How could it be possible that one can tell where the rice came from just by a simple glance? The rice didn't have any conspicuous distinction from any others.

Therefore, Chu Xiao naturally thought that Yuan Zhou was bullsh*tting...

Chapter 379: There is Always Someone Better

"I'm speaking the truth." Looking at Chu Xiao, Yuan Zhou frowned and said earnestly.

"Ho Ho." Without saying anything, Chu Xiao just humphed.

"Please judge it now." Yuan Zhou then left aside Chu Xiao and reminded the chairman faintly.

"Haw-haw-haw. Master Chu, you are wrong this time." The chairman of China Chef's Alliance stroked his beard and said happily.

In his opinion, Chu Xiao was way too conceited. It wouldn't be a bad thing for him to lose once. Therefore, he declared quite cleanly.

"It's really Sanyi Tribute Rice?" Chu Xiao raised his eyebrows in surprise.

"Yes, it is. In order to get the rice from the original source area by Eya Lake, we had to negotiate with the old guys from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences for really a long time." The chairman appeared rather complacent while speaking of that.

"It's indeed from the original source area, but it's merely from the fringe of the Wanmu field. The color of the rice from this area is different." Yuan Zhou said earnestly while pointing at some rice particles in the middle of the container.

"These crafty old scoundrels." The chairman ran off the stage quickly.

"Look." Yuan Zhou pointed at the rice particles carefully and said.

The chairman wasn't dim-sighted from old age yet. After he observed carefully, he found that the color was really different. Then, the chairman got very angry. He gnashed his teeth and

muttered, "Humph! Don't ever think of eating my dishes next time."

Yuan Zhou, that had a sharp hearing, didn't say anything, but just looked at the hands of the chairman. It was by then that he found the chairman's hands were solid and strong, different from that of the former royal chef whose hands were constantly trembling.

"He can at least showcase 70% of his craftsmanship at the moment." Yuan Zhou evaluated and then judged inwardly.

"You are doing really well." Watching the chairman make the judgement, Chu Xiao shrugged and said to Yuan Zhou.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and received the compliments.

"You might not have such luck in the following procedures." Chu Xiao said confidently.

"Yes. Who knows about the luck?" Yuan Zhou nodded his head, indicating that he agreed to Chu Xiao.

Immediately, an invisible scent of gunpowder appeared around the two of them.

"Identification of the third precious ingredient begins now." This time, it was the Precious Ingredient Research PhD that declared.

The old chairman was still angry.

It was known that the yield of the Sanyi Tribute Rice was very low and hence people from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences only used it for planting research rather than selling it to others. Only very few were to be provided to some special people.

The chairman used much of his prestige and even cooked personally for them in exchange for the single glass container of the rice. Never had he expected that it wasn't the top-quality rice particles from the central of the field. How could he not be angry?

"This way, please. The precious food ingredients are over here." The serving girl came up and led them to a pillar at a corner of the banquet hall.

"It's a living creature this time. Please don't get too close to it to prevent it from being irritated." The serving girl reminded them warmly as usual.

If not for the serving girl saying that, no one would have really noticed there was something inside the pillar.

"Open it." Regardless of the reminder, Chu Xiao said. He was quite curious about what it was.

"One moment, please." After saying that, the ritual girl removed the cover slowly.

After a sound of "Hua", the serving girl removed the deep-color soft drape lightly.

"Oh, my god! Not bad. How do you manage to get this carp, especially one that is in the infant stage? If you want somebody to cook it, it must be me." Once Chu Xiao saw the fish, he immediately said that.

He walked around the water vat and looked at it again and again, appearing quite excited.

"Carp?" Yuan Zhou muttered with a low voice. Almost at the same time, he thought of the carp from the legend.

It was rumored that a tough Hezhe man hunted a very weird large fish in the reign of Qianlong . At that time, no one had ever seen such a large fish and all felt very surprised.

By convention, any precious goods found by the folk must be sent to the capital and dedicated to the emperor. Therefore, this "big monster" was sent to the capital from Heilongjiang Province by the local fishermen without any modern transportation, going through difficulties. None of the civil and military officials could name the big fish.

After all, none had seen it before. However, they judged it to be non-toxic according to test result and moreover was a superb delicacy. Then, the imperial kitchen cooked a plate of delicious fish meat right away and sent to Emperor Qianlong to taste. He tasted a little bit and then became so pleased that he immediately made a poem.

Instantly, a minister complimented him and pleaded the emperor to name it. Having thought for a while, Emperor Qianlong said, "Since it's the biggest freshwater fish found so far, it can be regarded as the king of fishes. From now on, it must be sent to the palace every year as the royal tribute. Now that it's the tribute for the imperial family, I name it as Beluga (a homophonic name of King's Fish)."

While Yuan Zhou was thinking of the rumor, the Precious Ingredient Research PhD pushed his glasses upward and said.

"It is borrowed and not to be used for eating." Even when he said it was borrowed, the PhD revealed an expression of pride alike to what the chairman showed when speaking of Sanyi Tribute Rice.

"Not for eating? Then what's the use of it? I have only cooked it once. It's really very rare." Chu Xiao frowned.

"Of course not. This is a genuine one from the wild and has just been found." The Precious Ingredient Research PhD said seriously with his eyes widely open.

"The wild ones are more precious. We really can't take some meat from it to cook, can we? Just a little piece is enough." Chu Xiao looked at the Beluga in the water tank with a fervent gaze.

"I know there's progress in cultivating the Beluga nowadays. And I think we can eat only a little bit of its meat." Chu Xiao brought out the latest information that he had mastered.

"No, never. Tell us the answer quickly." The Precious Ingredient Research PhD refused flatly and said seriously.

"Got it." Chu Xiao stared at the Beluga swimming leisurely in the water tank while he was saying that.

The Beluga looked to be about 15 or 20 kgs and was indeed in the infant period. The body surface of the fish was basically all black; its head was triangular and its mouth was long and sharp; the flesh at both sides of its mouth was a little bulging, which accidentally gave a cute feeling.

"Hua La", the Beluga swam to the side and then revealed its yellow side body and the ash grey fatty belly. It seemed to have eaten a lot.

"As it likes living where the water flow is slow, like the middle layer and intersections of a river or at the gravel water bottom where the water flow is fast and there is a whirlpool, its flesh is incomparably delicious and it also has the characteristic fresh and fragrant scent of fishes. Therefore, it's suitable for various cooking methods." When Chu Xiao spoke of the cooking method at the latter part, he almost wanted to scoop up the Beluga and start to cook it immediately.

This time, Yuan Zhou didn't say anything as he was indeed unfamiliar with the fish. Even if the system had supplemented more detailed information of the Beluga, he didn't mention anything. The increase in his craftsmanship also increased his confidence, therefore Yuan Zhou didn't think he would lose.

"Yes, you are right." The three judges nodded their head with one accord and affirmed Chu Xiao's explanation.

"Then let's continue."

The contest of the precious food ingredients was only one day. Therefore, there would be no time for breaks except for lunch. Right after that, the contest commenced again.

Master Fang was taking notes at the side while looking at the ingredients.

The diversified precious ingredients were carried to the stage one after another. During the process, Yuan Zhou and Chu Xiao competed heatedly while the masters and audiences off the stage watched happily.

It was also a torture. Every time an ingredient was carried to them, the two superb chefs started to describe the taste and appropriate cooking method, which made everybody off the stage feel hungry.

Fortunately, the contest finally ended.

"Now, let us declare the results. Shortly afterwards, the winner will be responsible for cooking these edible precious ingredients." The chairman stood up and said directly without any paper in his hand.

"This time, the ingredients will be cooked by Master Yuan." Luckily, the chairman didn't have the habit of letting people guess about. He straightforwardly announced the results.

Chu Xiao took a step forward aggressively and asked instantly even before Tang Xi, who was watching the contest off the stage, applauded.

"Sorry, but we have the same score. How could he win?" While speaking, Chu Xiao pointed at Yuan Zhou immodestly.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou just looked at Chu Xiao solemnly and said earnestly, "Please admit the defeat candidly."

The atmosphere immediately froze. Chu Xiao was definitely reluctant to admit defeat...

Chapter 380: Spring Water Mantou

The deserved manner of Yuan Zhou instantly irritated Chu Xiao.

"Master Yuan, I feel that you are thinking too much? We have the same accuracy rate." Chu Xiao laughed scornfully.

"As a grand master, you should know the reason why you lost." Yuan Zhou said lightly while looking at Chu Xiao.

"Ho Ho". The two words uttered by Chu Xiao represented his attitude.

"I also feel their scores are the same. How is it that Master Yuan is so sure that he will win?" Some other chefs below the stage didn't understand, either.

"That's right. Surprisingly, there is a dark horse this year. Some methods of cooking mentioned by him were fairly interesting." This person cared more about the culinary skills.

"I feel it should be a draw too." The chefs preferred this result to others.

What a joke! They were defeated by Chu Xiao in every contest that he took part in. If they were told this time that anybody could defeat him, how shameful would they be?

Therefore, most chefs started talking about their own opinions privately.

"Humph. That Chu guy is so disagreeable. Obviously, he was defeated." Tang Xi pouted her lips and humphed.

"I think Boss Yuan wins the contest because he knows more." Chen Wei said objectively.

"That should be it. It seems that Master Chu isn't as awesome as Boss Yuan." Ling Hong stroked his chin and said smilingly.

"With my insight, Boss Yuan is undoubtedly awesome!" Wu Hai said complacently while stroking his mustaches.

"Originally, Boss Yuan is not likely to lose. He's merely short of a certificate." Man Man had also believed that Yuan Zhou would win.

Basically, everyone that had eaten yz's dishes had the same feeling.

"Everybody, please calm down." The chairman calmed the noisy scene immediately once he uttered. Then, the banquet hall was lost in silence immediately.

"Here's the reason why the result is so." The chairman made a chart on which he recorded the questions that both Chu Xiao and Yuan Zhou had answered.

"Here, on the question about how to process the Beluga, Master Yuan has not only provided a way to process the top-notch food ingredient but also come up with a constructive concept. Nonetheless, Master Chu has only provided a method to process the top-notch ingredient." The aged chairman said orderly.

"Right there, they have the difference of 1 score." The chairman stroked his beard and said earnestly.

"So that is what it is."

This was what appeared in almost everyone's hearts. It seemed that Yuan Zhou surprisingly did better than Chu Xiao.

Chu Xiao had originally wanted to continue asking what the constructive concept was. However, that would be unsightly. Therefore, he kept silent for quite a while.

"Next year you won't be so lucky if you take part in the contest." Chu Xiao uttered that to Yuan Zhou and then he turned around and left before everybody had any reaction.

Chu Xiao was just reluctant to admit failure, but he could afford to lose.

"Being young is so good. They can continue to compete against

each other, unlike we old guys that probably couldn't pick up the spatula next year." The aged chairman sighed with a smile but nevertheless didn't look like to be worried.

"Never mind. I can still move my pen." The Research Doctorate of Precious Ingredients said quietly.

"It doesn't matter. I can still move my lips." The great gourmet gave another hit without any hesitation.

At that time, Yuan Zhou saw Chu Xiao leave the banquet hall and the chefs off the stage also discussing the feasibility of the cooking method earnestly.

"Now is the best time to slip away." Suddenly, the word appeared in Yuan Zhou's mind.

Communication was always what Yuan Zhou wasn't good at, so Yuan Zhou had already left when Wu Hai and his fellows came over.

Of course, Yuan Zhou had the serving girl deliver a message to them considerately to thank them to specially come to see him act cool.

It was getting colder and colder and the night had arrived much earlier than before.

"Please help me call a cab." Yuan Zhou said politely to the attendants passing by him.

"Ok, sir." The waiter nodded his head and notified the person that specially called taxis for customers.

Yuan Zhou rushed back to his restaurant overnight and when he got to the entrance of the side street, he met Broth.

It ran to Yuan Zhou quickly with its silent footsteps.

"Hey. I especially gave you the noodle broth enough for two days before I left, no less at all." Yuan Zhou said immediately while looking at Broth that crouched in front of him.

However, Broth just sat down and looked at Yuan Zhou with an aloof manner. After that, it stood up and went back to the front door again to guard the restaurant earnestly.

"Alright. It seems that I have to cook something delicious tomorrow to compensate him." Looking at Broth and thinking of the customers, Yuan Zhou suddenly muttered to himself considerably.

Yuan Zhou had a very good sleep tonight. In accordance with his biological clock and habits, Yuan Zhou got up, jogged, exercised before he continued to take a shower and cook breakfast.

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Having taken the flour and prepared to cook breakfast, Yuan Zhou suddenly realized there was a problem with the system's reward.

"System, there actually does not seem to have 100 cooking methods for the 100 Varieties of Mantou, right?" Yuan Zhou asked curiously.

The system displayed, "This is just the name of the reward."

"Haw?" Yuan Zhou just found it unbelievable.

"So you mean it's only the name of the reward and in fact there aren't 100 cooking method?" Yuan Zhou asked to seek confirmation.

The system displayed, "You are right."

"Tell me who has taught you to be deceitful. Where has the frank and honest system gone?" Yuan Zhou couldn't help murmuring.

"Even if I deceived you to get the reward, you can't play with words." Yuan Zhou broke down in his mind.

However, the system didn't answer him and Yuan Zhou could only stay silent.

After a while, the system still didn't respond to him. Then, Yuan

Zhou murmured inwardly, "He uses his own abilities to trick and obtain the reward. Why won't the system give him the entire one?"

"Forget it. Let me cook now." Yuan Zhou washed his hands and then began to cook earnestly.

The breakfast for today was again a new dish, the Spring Water Mantou, which belonged to the 100 Styles of Mantous.

It was a breakfast that sounded easy but nevertheless contained something special.

The flour was still the best one provided by the system while the other leading role today was the spring water.

"System, what was the spring water you said just now?" Yuan Zhou started to doubt whether he had encountered a fake system.

After all, the name of the spring water seemed to be fake.

The system displayed, "The spring water is called Luerde Spring, also known as Laoshi Spring. It has the function of curing diseases and changing color. The intrinsic taste is sweet and mellow."

"Laoshi Spring can cure the diseases? It sounds like the hot spring." Having looked at the spring water and then the flour, Yuan Zhou was a little hesitant.

The system had told him just now that the spring water could change color.

"What color will it become? Yuan Zhou cared about that more.

A good appearance was also one of the significant points of foods."

The system displayed, "Random."

"That'll be great." Yuan Zhou let out a sigh of relief when he heard that.

The system indicated that he was quite puzzled and totally didn't understand what good it had.

Right after that, Yuan Zhou asked, "When does its color change?"

The system displayed, "After the food is steamed."

"Ok." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

Then, Yuan Zhou started to cook it confidently, without revealing any worry that it would become an ugly color.

Quite a while later, Yuan Zhou put Mantous on the food steamer and started to steam them. When he washed his hands and prepared to open the door, the system uttered.

The system displayed, "Host, please tell me why you feel that "randomly" is good."

The system asked the question that gave off the feeling it wasn't ashamed to learn from its subordinate.

"Because I am such a decent human being. It's definitely a good color." Yuan Zhou didn't stop his actions of opening the door and meanwhile said deservedly.

If the system could ridicule him, it probably would say, "With such a narcissistic attitude, you are totally unlike a host that has communication obstacles. I might have met a fake host."

The daily interactions between Yuan Zhou and the system were still harmonious as usual.

Nonetheless, the customers were so excited now that they could eat dishes of Boss Yuan's restaurant. Besides, they still didn't know there would be a new dish again.

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Chapter 381: A Taste That Starts From Zero

"As expected, it's open. I know Boss Yuan won't break his word." A customer said excitedly while holding the number ticket in the hand.

"Nothing to feel strange about. The reason why Compass is Compass is that he always keeps his word." Wu Hai shrugged and then walked into the restaurant as if he was accustomed to the situation.

"Everybody, the first twenty customers can come on in." Zhou Jia greeted the customers with a smile.

"Terrific. Again, we can eat Boss Yuan's breakfast." The two animation-addicted girls said with one accord.

"Hi, long time no see." As soon as Yin Ya entered the restaurant, she greeted Yuan Zhou.

"Hi, Boss Yuan. Here I am again." Tang Xi also waved her hand to Yuan Zhou with a cute expression.

"Boss Yuan, you are finally back. Even my wallet can't wait longer." A customer at the side couldn't help joking.

"Um. Morning." After a nod, Yuan Zhou first greeted and then continued saying, "A new dish, Spring Water Mantou, will be provided today."

"Wow! ...We are so lucky to be able to eat a new dish once you are back," Yin Ya said smilingly.

"We are truly lucky. Get a serving for me." The frank and honest Wu Hai said directly while stroking his mustaches.

"Get one for me first." Once Wu Hai started, other customers instantly reacted. It was breakfast and there were only 100 servings.

"Me, too." Yin Ya sat down and said to Yuan Zhou.

"Alright. One moment, please." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and then took the verdant food steamer off from the steaming pot and put them at the place where Zhou Jia served the dishes one by one.

"Everybody, please pay first according to prices on the menu. The dishes are to be served right away." Zhou Jia said at the right moment.

"Here is your dish." Yuan Zhou carried it to Yin Ya straightforwardly as usual.

"Thank you." Yin Ya revealed a blush on her white-skinned face.

"Tsk-tsk. No wonder even the Mantou is pink today." Wu Hai said at the side with a vaguely meaningful gaze.

"This color is so beautiful. Boss Yuan is so awesome. It's surprisingly such a beautiful pink Mantou." The anime-addicted girl supported her head with her two hands and said admiringly while looking at the cute and plump Mantou in front of her.

"Huh? Pink Mantou?" Yin Ya uncovered the food steamer curiously.

Inside of the food steamer indeed lay six pink little Mantous. Different from the previous Thousand Layer Mantou, the little Mantou was round and looked plump. In contrast with the verdant bamboo food steamer outside, they looked both lovable and beautiful.

The smooth skin of the Mantous seemed to emit a pink light.

"What a strange color! But it's quite good-looking, like a work of art." Yin Ya poked it curiously.

When the Mantou was poked inward, however, it soon returned to normal, leaving a small indent on the smooth skin.

"What exactly is the taste of the Mantou that is like a work of art?" Yin Ya became quite curious.

The animation-addicted girl was more curious and had started to

gulp down half of a Mantou impatiently. The part where she bit recovered to 80% of its original state in just a little while.

Now people could clearly see the color inside of the Mantou was also cherry pink. The many holes from air bubbles didn't look terrible at all. Instead, it appeared neat and beautiful and emitted faint fragrance of wheat.

"Slurp Slurp". As soon as she ate the Mantou, a faint unknown fragrance filled the mouth. After chewing, the sweet and fragrant smell diffused gradually as if it had many different layers. If not for the refreshing chewiness in the mouth, she would have thought she was eating a flower with a faint fragrance.

The Mantou was extremely soft and yet meanwhile chewy. The two different textures plus the intrinsic wheat fragrance of the flour and the sweet taste of the spring water was so delicious that the two girls couldn't help praising it again and again with words that others couldn't understand.

"This is soooo delicious! I feel Boss Yuan is soooo awesome every time. The dishes are both beautiful and tasty." After the girl ate half Mantou, she immediately praised and then continued eating the other half.

The texture of this half Mantou was exactly the same as that of the other half just now. The soft dough carried some wheat fragrance and the intrinsic sweetness of the spring water. While chewing, it carried a little chewiness, which made people unable to stop.

After eating up three Mantous, the girl with a long hair and round face found something wrong.

"Do you think there's something wrong with the Mantou?" A girl pulled the other and asked her.

"I think so, too." The other girl nodded her head while chewing the Mantou in her mouth.

"What is it?" The girl that asked didn't stop at all. She took another Mantou and started to stuff it into her mouth.

Of course, the name of Sakura Mantou was made up by themselves. In their opinion, the Mantou was like a large flower petal of the Sakura.

"I got it." Once the Mantou entered her mouth, the girl instantly said with a lisp.

"What?" The other girl turned her head and looked at her friend with half a Mantou dangling from his mouth, being reluctant to put it down.

"It's like whenever we eat the next Mantou, it feels like we haven't eaten it before. Although the taste is the same, it's very bland at the beginning as if we are experiencing the delicacy of the Mantou once again every time." The girl's explanations were in a mess, but luckily somebody understood it.

"You're right. It's indeed like that." Yin Ya echoed.

"Every time we eat the next Mantou, it's quite refreshing in the mouth as if we were eating it for the first time and experiencing the pleasant feeling again. That's it." Wu Hai said conclusively while stroking his small mustaches.

"Yes, right, that's right. That's the feeling." The girl nodded her head earnestly and agreed to him.

"When we eat the Mantou to the end, it's like we have drunk the luscious spring water which makes us feel refreshed. When we eat the next one, it's a new taste again." While saying that, Wu Hai was a little dumbfounded, appearing as if he had thought of something.

"I got it now." Wu Hai suddenly jumped off the chair and prepared to run. But just within several steps, he went back again, took the Mantou and stuffed it into his mouth. Having chewed up with several gulps, he ran out of the restaurant.

"The inspiration of an artist is really like a thunder." Yuan Zhou

sighed with emotion inwardly.

Because of its special texture, the Spring Water Mantou was extraordinarily popular. Customers that came for breakfast ate it occasionally along with soybean milk or fruit juice and were playing with it happily like kids.

The breakfast time lasting one hour passed very soon. As soon as it ended, Yuan Zhou received a call before he went to have a rest.

"Ding Ling Ling, Ding Ling Ling"

"Hello." Yuan Zhou looked at the unknown number and answered the phone.

"Hello, Master Yuan. This is Zhou Shijie, the chairman of China Chefs' Alliance. Three days later, we'll hold the cooking activity of those precious ingredients and you'll have 19 ingredients at your disposal." It was the principal judge, Zhou Shijie, that day.

"Ok. I got it." Yuan Zhou became solemn subconsciously.

"By convention, you can choose any other master that took part in the contest that day to be your assistant and his restaurant to be the cooking place." Zhou Shijie was very serious and earnest when he talked about the proper business.

Right after that, however, he smiled and said, "Of course. They are very happy to be your assistant and for their restaurants being chosen as the kitchen."

The words made Yuan Zhou frown. What a joke! Who was Yuan Zhou? He was a person who had quite an obsession. He wouldn't even allow others to enter his restaurant. How was it possible that he would allow other to be his assistant?

Before Yuan Zhou found an excuse to refuse him, Zhou Shijie continued to say, "But that is just a convention. You can actually choose whoever you like. Even if it's Chu Xiao, he has to come to help. But whether or not you can suppress him... you have to count on yourself."

The words obviously carried some expectancy and teasing. After all, Chu Xiao was quite well-known for his bad temper.

Having paused a while, Yuan Zhou thought of a method to refuse and then he said, "..."

Chapter 382: Presentation of Culinary Skills

Theoretically, conventions shouldn't be rejected, but Yuan Zhou had his own consideration. Frankly speaking, his obsessive-compulsive disorder had already been in the late stages, but was now strengthened even more by the system.

"Respected Zhou, I don't need any assistants. If you have any queries, you can come to my restaurant personally and I'll prove to you." Yuan Zhou said that with a seemingly euphemistic tone.

The silence lasted for a great while at the other end of the phone. Then, Zhou Shijie said, "Do you mean you want no one as your assistant?"

"Yes." Yuan Zhou answered cleanly.

"Can you tell me the reason?" Zhou Shijie asked with puzzlement.

He just didn't understand why this person who didn't look prideful before was now even tougher than Chu Xiao.

At the very least, Chu Xiao chose two masters that were barely qualified.

"I'm just used to doing it all alone." Yuan Zhou said with an indifferent tone.

"Some of the precious ingredients will have to be processed in very short time. How many apprentices are you prepared to bring along?" Zhou Shijie didn't ask more, but changed the subject.

"I'm going to do it all alone." Yuan Zhou answered positively and earnestly.

"Leaving aside other work, the work of vegetable washing and cutting as well as plate presentation has to be done by somebody." Zhou Shijie immediately choked. Only after quite a while did he speak again.

"It's going to be done by me alone, too." There was puzzlement

contained in Yuan Zhou's tone.

In Yuan Zhou's opinion, if he didn't need an assistant, the work was naturally to be done by himself. Otherwise, why would he refuse an assistant?

"Are you sure?" Although Zhou Shijie was puzzled, he had nothing to say as the rule was like that.

"Wait a moment." Yuan Zhou thought Zhou Shijie was going to hang up the phone and hence he uttered.

At the other end of the phone, Zhou Shijie contrarily felt relieved immediately. He thought Yuan Zhou would surely regret it and still needed the assistant, thinking inwardly, "Luckily, this guy knows to retract from the wrong path. He has to get one to help him."

"I have no requirement on hotels as long as it's not far from Taoxi Road. And for the time to cook, I want it to be 8:30 in the evening." Yuan Zhou brought out his requirements altogether.

"Is that all? Got it. This old man will arrange everything." Zhou Shijie then seriously choked and had to agree to Yuan Zhou's requirements.

Having thought for a while, however, Zhou Shijie said persistently, "There are no problems with all your requirements. But I must tell you in advance that you need to cook in an open kitchen. If you don't need an assistant, will there be any problems?" Zhou Shijie said earnestly.

"Ok. No problem." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and agreed.

"One more thing. You will start cooking at 9:00. During the half an hour before that, you have to persuade those chefs that were unable to take part in the cooking activity." Zhou Shijie stroked his beards and appeared quite solemn.

This convention was originally a kind of welfare to those chefs. Now that the winner was reluctant to offer them, he naturally had

to explain to them by himself.

"Um, ok." Yuan Zhou also gave an affirmative answer.

"Good. I'll be looking forward to admiring Master Yuan's culinary skills." After saying that, Zhou Shijie hung up the phone.

After Yuan Zhou rested for a while, he suddenly asked in the quiet restaurant, "Whose food ingredients do you think are better, yours or theirs?"

Naturally, he said that to the system. However, the system never paid attention to Yuan Zhou's desire to chat with him and usually he had no reaction.

Yuan Zhou just waited peacefully. Three days later, he would try to cook the top-notch food ingredients provided by others. Even Yuan Zhou had not made some of those dishes before, so he was also quite expectant.

Nevertheless, it wasn't so peaceful at Zhou Shijie's end. Just after he notified everyone that Yuan Zhou didn't want any assistants, his phone rang again.

"Master Cheng, what's the matter?" Zhou Shijie asked as usual.

"Are you serious? Master Yuan doesn't need any assistants and will do all the work by himself? Not even a person to wash vegetables for him?" Master Cheng looked to be quick-tempered. Once the call was put through, he asked impatiently.

"Yes. That's exactly right." On hearing that, Zhou Shijie answered habitually.

"Ok. Sorry to bother." Master Cheng kept silent for a while and then hung up the phone.

The few chefs all called him and inquired about that. Only when it was in the evening did Zhou Shijie's phone stop ringing.

"These chefs are way too anxious. Fortunately, it has all stopped now," Zhou Shijie muttered to himself.

Just after that, his phone rang again stridently, "Ding Ling Ling, Ding Ling Ling."

Without taking a look, Zhou Shijie directly answered it and said, "Master Yuan indeed doesn't need the assistant. He will officially explain the reason at 8:30 p.m. three days later."

"The rumor turns out to be true." It wasn't the voice of other chefs, but was the arrogant voice of Chu Xiao.

"Ah, it's Master Chu. Are you also calling to ask about that?" Zhou Shijie took the phone off his ears with puzzlement and then took a look. The two characters of Chu Xiao were glistening on the screen. It was indeed him.

"Um. Nothing special. I'm hanging up." Then, Chu Xiao really hung off the phone.

"It seems this guy is unwilling to admit defeat." Zhou Shijie shook his head. He didn't actually care about these trifles much.

After he hung up the phone, he directly went back home.

At the other side, several chefs that had taken part in the contest met. After all the chefs' communication and confirmation, they got to know that Yuan Zhou wanted to have the benefits of all the precious ingredients to himself.

"Ho Ho. I will just sit back and wait to see that Master Yuan get stuffed. How dare he uses twenty precious ingredients to cook dishes alone?" A moon-faced chef held his arms and humphed.

"Exactly. He really has eyes bigger than the stomach." One would for sure feel quite annoyed when their benefits were snatched even if the benefits hadn't fallen upon themselves, not to mention that there was a chance he would be obtaining the benefit.

"Do you guys think it is possible? Cook the dishes alone without even a single worker to help him?" The chef tidied his chef's hat and smiled scornfully.

"Bullsh*t, that's totally impossible. Of course, it's possible if he cooks all night long. But I'm afraid the dishes wouldn't be eatable then?" Master Cheng said with disdain.

"Although Master Yuan is indeed knowledgeable, I don't think he is that good on other aspects." Master Fang that had quit the game voluntarily also said scornfully.

Nobody believed that Yuan Zhou could process these food ingredients well in a short time by himself.

After all, the more precious and delicious the ingredients were, the shorter its freshness lifetime was, that was to say, Yuan Zhou had to use up all the ingredients to cook the dishes within 2 hours.

But according to Yuan Zhou, he wouldn't take anybody there, not even a worker to wash vegetables.

None of the chefs believed that Yuan Zhou could make it. After all, they would rather wash the vegetables or make some sculptures even though the winner didn't like them to cook. It wasn't necessary for them to do any of the work, but for the sake of the precious ingredients, they could accept that.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou didn't even give this opportunity to them. It was simply as if Yuan Zhou ate all the meat without leaving a single gulp of broth to them. How could they bear that humiliation?

"I'm just waiting to see that prideful person swallow his own bitter pill." It was almost everyone's wish.

However, will Yuan Zhou actually be frantic about that?

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Chapter 383: Highest State of Acting Cool

Three days passed in a flash. The reason why Yuan Zhou asked to start cooking at 8:30 p.m. was that he was considerate and didn't want to delay his customers' meal time.

As soon as Shen Min arrived, Yuan Zhou summoned her to him.

"Shen Min, I won't be here tonight. You can just go back when the time is up." Yuan Zhou said to Shen Min who walked to him.

"Ok. Don't worry, Boss Yuan." Shen Min nodded her head earnestly.

"Um. I'm leaving now." Yuan Zhou then went upstairs to change clothes with relief.

"Be careful on your way, Boss Yuan." Shen Min only said that when Yuan Zhou almost got to the second floor after quite a while.

"Ok." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Hoo. When exactly can I get this habit cured?" Shen Min was quite helpless to this habit of getting nervous at the sight of her teachers or superiors.

About ten minutes later, Yuan Zhou stepped down the stairs with a sound of "Ta Ta Ta".

"Boss Yuan, are you going out on a date?" Once she finished asking that, Shen Min blushed instantly and then prepared to leave with embarrassment.

"No, I'm not. I'm going to improve my culinary skills." Yuan Zhou appeared extraordinarily earnest when he was saying that.

"Oh, I see. Bye, Boss Yuan." Shen Min answered solemnly immediately.

"Um." After a nod, Yuan Zhou walked out of the side street and prepared to take a cab to the hotel.

Actually, it was not strange that Shen Min would ask that. Yuan Zhou was dressed in a dark blue round-collar robe today, which made him look fairly handsome, good-looking and slender.

As he liked simplicity when going out, Yuan Zhou only took a bank note of 10 RMB, barely enough amount for the cab, for going there and 20 RMB for coming back since there was the night fee in the evening. Apart from all that, He had only a phone with him.

"Litter bro, your clothes are pretty good. They look great." When they were waiting for the green light, the driver complimented him smilingly.

"Thank you. This is the round-neck robe." Yuan Zhou first nodded to thank him and then answered.

"Oh. I know the character, Lord Dee, in the TV series of Renjie Dee likes wearing this kind of clothes." The driver indicated that he liked watching the costume dramas very much.

"Um. It's indeed similar to that." Yuan Zhou thought for a while and then found they really looked the same.

"Then do you also put your money in the sleeves?" The driver gazed at Yuan Zhou's puff from time to time.

"Yes. I can make a pocket inside." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"It's indeed true. Interesting." The driver then started to drive carefully after his curiosity was satisfied.

In less than 10 minutes, the driver made a turn and parked the car gracefully at the entrance of the hotel with a sound of "Zi".

"With those driving skills, you can even enter a competition." Yuan Zhou muttered inwardly with an expressionless look and then took out the bank note of 10 RMB and gave it to him.

"The amount is just right. Bye, little brother." The driver nodded his head and said goodbye to Yuan Zhou.

"Goodbye." Yuan Zhou also nodded his head.

"Hello. Come in, please." The doorman came over to lead him the way.

"Guanju Hall on the fourth floor, please." Yuan Zhou directly brought out the destination.

"Ok. Follow me, please." The doorman answered smilingly.

Although Yuan Zhou was dressed in Han Chinese clothing, nobody stopped to stare at him. Therefore, he arrived at the fourth floor quietly.

"It is almost the time. Why isn't that person here yet?" Master Chen complained while looking at the entrance.

And Yuan Zhou happened to hear that when he arrived.

The entire hall was arranged to be as well-lit as during the day. There were even shadowless lamps where Yuan Zhou would process the food ingredients.

On the long countertop, all tools required for steaming, oil-frying, stir-frying and boiling were all complete and furthermore, the three pots, bowls and wooden dippers were all laid out at the side.

Behind him were the plates and bowls used for carrying the dishes. They were as long as the kitchen countertop and were separated into several parts, where there were different patterns and styles.

On the left were six large sinks for washing the vegetables and next to them was the azure stone countertop for processing the ingredients.

"Great. It's fairly decent." Yuan Zhou nodded his head contentedly when he saw the food ingredients along the wall at the other side.

"This place is indeed very good." Zhou Shijie said proudly with a smile.

"You have truly done a lot of work. Thank you." Courtesies were never missed by Yuan Zhou.

"Um. Now it's your turn to say something." Zhou Shijie went up only to say that.

"Alright." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Today's leading role has arrived now. This old man has starved all day long and waited for a whole day just to taste this meal. I believe everybody is probably the same." Zhou Shijie wasn't solemn today as how he had been during the contest. Once he went up to the chefs, he joked with them.

"Haw-haw. We are also waiting to see Boss Yuan show his awesomeness." These chefs were still waiting for Yuan Zhou to give them the reasons.

"Exactly. Boss Yuan, you have to handle us all by yourself." Dressed in casual clothes, the talking chef crossed his arms over his chest and looked at him smilingly.

"Yeah. Boss Yuan still has to bother with us." Another chef immediately chimed in.

Chu Xiao just sat at the side and watched them without saying any word. Of course, his expression showed obvious disbelief.

"Hey, why don't you say something to persuade him?" Xing Min was slightly worried when he saw that, but since it wasn't appropriate for him to say anything, he had to ask Lee Yanyi beside him.

"It's none of my business." Lee Yanyi just revealed a look of puzzlement.

"What a stubborn old guy! Pity, what a pity!" Xing Min then became flustered and exasperated. He patted his thighs and muttered vaguely, all about bad words to Lee Yanyi.

Lee Yanyi nevertheless just kept silent and waited to eat.

Naturally, Yuan Zhou could get the sarcasm from their words, but he just remained expressionless. Only when these chefs finished talking did he start to say.

"Please, do you have the colorless crystal rod?" Yuan Zhou said to the waiter beside him.

"Yes, we do." The waiter didn't expect Yuan Zhou to talk to him and hence only answered after a slight hesitation.

"Please give it to me." Yuan Zhou said deservedly with his expression unchanged.

"Ho Ho. Let me wait and see how you act out later." The disdain revealed on Master Cheng's face was almost flowing out.

"The thing is actually like this. Due to my mysophobia problem, my plate presentation would probably be quite different from those made by others." While Yuan Zhou was talking to the serving girl, he washed his hands.

According to the old customs, Yuan Zhou repeated the actions three times. Only when they saw how Yuan Zhou washed his hands and wore the face mask did those chefs stop talking. After Yuan Zhou did all that, however, he took up a daikon and immediately started to sculpt while speaking.

"Shua Shua Shua". While the kitchen knife was dancing in the air, the thin daikon slices fell off like the lunar aureole. In a short while, Yuan Zhou had sculpted the daikon in his hand into a beautiful ancient court lady.

With a big downward bun, the court lady was dressed in layers of gowns. The skirt angle was flown upward and the scarf was blowing in the wind. The gentle smile revealed on her face, the plentiful and plump temperament and romantic charm as well as the white and smooth skin all indicated Yuan Zhou's superb craftsmanship.

"Damn!" As a master that had been famous for long, even Master

Cheng couldn't help rubbing his eyes.

"That was way too fast." Master Fang became flabbergasted.

"Sh*t! I also want a plate presentation like this one."

"No wonder he doesn't want others to cut the vegetables for him."

"...." Other chefs thought of their interjections bitterly in the heart.

"I never expected him to be that good." Chu Xiao was also a little surprised.

The first was that Yuan Zhou used the kitchen knife; secondly, the time was very short; thirdly, it was almost a work of art rather than a decoration of a plate presentation. Chu Xiao had to admit that Yuan Zhou's knife skill was really better than his.

"I like this style of presentation. It's unique and is of a minority." This time, a rare faint smile appeared on Yuan Zhou's face, which made him seem extraordinarily sincere.

Unique?

Was that only unique?

As for being the minority, it was indeed so, as none of the chefs on site could reach that level.

Then, the chefs that watched at the side only wanted to say inwardly, "I don't know what to say, but we all like this style of plate presentation. Get us a dozen, oh no, ten dozen, please."

No wonder he didn't want others to help...

"Master Yuan seems to be a very tough guy." Zhou Shijie said to the other two people at the side while stroking his beard.

However, the sculpture was only the very start. Yuan Zhou's presentation of culinary skills had barely begun.

Chapter 384: Yuan Zhou's Eccentricity

Just when the other chefs were obsessed with the ancient court lady and couldn't restrain themselves, the waiter came back.

"Sir, here is your crystal rod." The waiter handed the tray to him.

"Well, good. Thank you." Yuan Zhou received the crystal rod and then thanked the waiter.

"You are welcome." The waiter said smilingly.

"Master Yuan, even if you don't need assistants like us to sculpt, you need a person to wash the vegetables, right?" It was Master Cheng that spoke.

"Exactly. You can't wash the vegetables alone, can you?" Other chefs echoed one after another.

"Leaving other things aside, I'm fairly confident in washing vegetables." Master Cheng patted on his chest and said confidently.

Judging from the profound knowledge disclosed in the contest and his god-tier sculpting skills displayed now, his culinary skills were definitely at the level of a great master.

It can definitely enhance their culinary skills if they could do the odd jobs for Yuan Zhou.

That was basically the thought of all these chefs. However, it was the cunning Master Cheng that spoke first.

"Actually, I am also not bad." Even before Yuan Zhou could answer then, another chef also recommended himself at the side.

"There are so many vegetables and I think we can work together and cooperate." A younger chef suggested smartly.

"I think this method is good." Once he suggested that, the idea received all chefs' consent.

That was rarely seen in normal times. The chefs that had so

many titles surprisingly all wanted to wash the vegetables eagerly. What a spectacle it was!

"He's really a capable chef." At the side, Xing Min was also relieved. He said with a smile.

"Never giving up on their goals until the end." Lee Yanyi humphed coldly. Obviously, he was discontented with not being able to eat the dishes.

"You eccentric old man, do you mean that he doesn't even need assistants to help wash vegetables?" No wonder Xing Min was Lee Yanyi's deadly foe. He figured out his meaning immediately and then asked in surprise.

"That young guy is way too prideful. It's a waste of time." Lee Yanyi didn't deny, but just looked at the surrounding chefs discontentedly.

"Same to you, the unreasonable stubborn donkey." Even at that moment, Xing Min didn't forget to ridicule Lee Yanyi.

"Humph." Lee Yanyi just responded with a cold humph.

After Yuan Zhou heard everyone's utterance, he answered, "I'm sorry. I'm rich in nothing but eccentricity. I like washing vegetables this way."

While he was speaking, he appeared quite sincere.

Nonetheless, the hearts of all the chefs over there skipped a beat as they felt something was wrong.

Disregarding all that, Yuan Zhou just took up the Jinling Grass prepared just now and intended to give a presentation.

The handful of Jinling Grass wasn't so good as that provided by the system, but it was still quite fresh and tender.

"Aren't the vegetable alright after some rinsing?" Of course, other chefs also knew the crispness and freshness of this vegetable.

Right after that, however, Yuan Zhou began to show his unique

awesomeness with his capabilities.

Yuan Zhou first cut the old stalks off with the bamboo knife provided, leaving every piece only one inch long.

Of course, the bamboo knife had also been processed by Yuan Zhou beforehand.

He moved the bamboo knife upward lightly but quickly. Then the Jinling Grass on the kneading board fell into the azure stone basin that he had prepared like the blue jade.

After a sound of "Pi Li Pa La", it fell into the water.

In a rapid sequence, Yuan Zhou picked up the crystal rod sent to him by the waiter just now.

While he was shaking the basin clockwise and making the vortex appear with one hand, he stirred the Jinling Grass with the crystal rod lightly with the other.

His actions were light, but nevertheless fully washed every piece of Jinling Grass.

In the end, Yuan Zhou moved the Jinling Grass out with the crystal rod again. It was then covered with a layer of water mist.

"It's done." Yuan Zhou said that in no more than 3 minutes.

He looked up at the crowds and found the banquet hall was lost in absolute silence. They basically hadn't reacted yet.

"I like to wash the vegetables in this way. It is quite rare." Yuan Zhou said with a seemingly shy expression.

On hearing that, the chefs on site wanted to say nothing but a simple "Ho Ho".

"The vegetables could surprisingly be washed this way. Then what is that when we are washing it before?" A chef couldn't help muttering.

"It's devastation." Master Cheng answered fluently.

"I don't want to say anything to Boss Yuan anymore."

"Can that be called rare?"

"Eh..."

"Ta Ta Ta", Chu Xiao straightforwardly went up and brought the washed Jinling Grass closer to have a look.

"Really nice." After quite a while, Chu Xiao remarked.

"Tsk-tsk. I only found out now that I don't even know how to wash vegetables." A chef joined the circle to watch.

"Luckily I didn't say I wanted to do that." Another chef that kept silent while others were volunteering to wash vegetables said that.

"Indeed. Fortunately, I didn't have time to say that. Otherwise, it wouldn't be so interesting." The talking chef looked at the several people including Master Cheng that had tried to do the work eagerly with an expression of ridicule.

"Yeah. Fortunately, we didn't say that." The few persons that didn't volunteer all felt lucky.

Nevertheless, those who had volunteered to wash the vegetables were basically silent now. They couldn't even ridicule now.

After all, they all knew that the Jinling Grass indeed needed to be washed that way.

It was just because they understood that. The way Yuan Zhou used just now was too magnificent and nobody could match against him. That issue made them very upset.

They had been greatly outclassed by Yuan Zhou's sculpting skill and now, again, by Yuan Zhou's technique of washing the vegetables.

"Sh*t. Is it really necessary to wash the vegetables with such a complex method?" Master Cheng could only ridicule in his heart.

"Haw-haw. This little brat is so interesting." There was a

contented expression on the old face of Zhou Shijie.

Seeing everybody become silent, Yuan Zhou prepared to continue his presentation and hence directly uttered.

The way he talked was still familiar as always, "Regarding the processing of the beef, I have a rather eccentric method, too."

All chefs on site felt a slight headache when they heard the word of eccentric.

"Go to hell with your eccentricity." It was the thought of all chefs on site.

Of course, it also stood for another meaning, "Thank you for your eccentric technique. Please get a dozen for me."

However, the reason why a chef remained a chef was because they had good decency. Therefore, they only ridiculed him inwardly.

Superficially, they still appeared like, "You continue to act and we'll just watch silently."

"I will use the beef to make my presentation. I'm going to reveal my incompetence now." After Yuan Zhou said politely, he began to take the beef out.

He didn't touch the beef at all from the moment he took out the beef until he put it on the kneading board.

"I am prepared to slice it." Yuan Zhou raised his head and said that.

Then, he took a neat rectangular plate with no edges from behind him.

Having rinsed it with the boiling water, he put it on the beef right after that.

This time, Yuan Zhou didn't use the kitchen knife provided by the banquet hall, but directly took out another one from his body.

It was obviously the Miracle Kitchen Knife that Yuan Zhou had used in his restaurant.

Before he came here, Yuan Zhou specifically inquired the system about that.

Just as expected by Yuan Zhou, the taste-free chopsticks and the spoon were allowed to be taken out. Naturally, so was the Miracle Kitchen Knife.

According to the system, only the food ingredients cannot be taken out of the restaurant.

"Pa", he pressed the plate down and afterwards, he supported it lightly with one hand and took the kitchen knife with the other and then straightforwardly started.

"Damn it. Cutting without measuring?" A chef was surprised.

"It's very normal to cut that way but not so for him." Master Cheng said solemnly.

Other chefs all nodded their head in favor of Master Cheng.

They could also cut without measuring, but they never did it so well. Moreover, after displaying such superior craftsmanship to all others, it was unwise to just cut without measuring.

Only Chu Xiao suddenly said, "Its normal for him to cut it without measuring."

The word was said affirmatively.

Other chefs at the side all looked at Chu Xiao with puzzlement.

Although frowning, Chu Xiao still explained that...

Chapter 385: Please Take Me As Apprentice

Chu Xiao didn't really like explaining. Since everybody was puzzled in this situation, however, he had to explain to them by himself.

"Do you know about the human scent?" Seeing Yuan Zhou cut quickly and precisely, he also said solemnly.

The two characters of "human scent" stood for too many meanings, so the chefs on site all fell silent.

"The scent of human bodies?" A chef asked tentatively.

"No, it isn't." Chu Xiao frowned again and then said, "Everyone has his own scent and the precious foods are most likely to be contaminated by that."

"I got it. No wonder you have that rule, Master Chu." Master Cheng was enlightened and he suddenly said.

"What rule is it?" A chef didn't really know about that and thus he asked curiously.

"Food ingredients sent to me can't have any scent of humans." Chu Xiao crossed his arms against his chest and said naturally.

All chefs on site got choked by his words.

Except for the three judges, Xing Min and Lee Yanyi, every chef basically couldn't smell this thing called human scent. The word of Chu Xiao now instantly made each of them speechless.

"Master Chu, you have a sharp nose." A chef couldn't help but say so.

"The ingredients can't be used anymore if every person touches it once." There was full of disgust in Chu Xiao's tone.

"So is that the reason why Master Yuan is keeping us away from the ingredients?" The remaining chefs then got to know why they weren't needed.

As for the unpleasant words of Chu Xiao, they all indicated that the wind was so strong and they couldn't hear that.

"A crowd of chefs keeps twittering like those who sing Chinese opera in the tea house." Lee Yanyi can't help satirizing when he found Yuan Zhou still hadn't started.

"Come on. Which of these chefs do you think is not prideful? That young man doesn't even leave them any soup. Of course, they will embarrass him." Xing Min knew about these chefs' mindset better and therefore, he directly brought it out.

"Humph. So complicated." No one actually knew whom Lee Yanyi was mentioning by saying complicated. After saying that, he sat in the chair and said nothing more.

"Alright. Attention, please." Yuan Zhou turned the plate upside down and took up the beef.

After a sound of "Peng", he set it down on the azure stone countertop lightly.

"Why does it look like it isn't cut at all?" A chef even revealed his accent in surprise.

"It indeed looks like that. I just don't know what the thickness is like." Chu Xiao frowned and said. His eyesight wasn't as good as his smell.

Yuan Zhou wiped the quadrangular beef lightly with the knife and immediately the entire piece of beef became trapezoidal.

Then, Yuan Zhou's knife skills were well displayed in the trapezoidal beef. Other chefs that watched at the side couldn't help saying with one accord.

"What the f*ck!"

"Let me get close to have a look." Chu Xiao took a few steps forward with big strides after he said that.

Yuan Zhou just made a gesture of "Please" to him.

On the white rectangular plate that had no patterns was an entire piece of beef. Every slice of the beef was seen to have the identical spacing and size in the short distance.

Even the thickness that was hard to control while cutting without measuring was the same.

What Chu Xiao specially observed was the first several pieces and the last several ones.

Normally, people would use only the middle part of the beef no matter they sliced or shredded it before cutting it into a square. Only in that way would the beef not be sliced or shredded into different sizes.

However, Yuan Zhou didn't do that like what people normally did, therefore Chu Xiao specifically observed the two parts carefully.

"He surprisingly cut it along the radian and veins." Having noticed that, Chu Xiao felt a little uncomfortable.

Yuan Zhou wasn't wasting any of the ingredients. Even Chu Xiao himself couldn't even do that. Moreover, the beef wasn't contaminated with the slightest scent of Yuan Zhou after it was held in Yuan Zhou's hand for so long time.

What filled his nose was the prime-grade aroma of fresh beef. Just by smelling the aroma, people could feel that the beef would definitely be fresh, tender, and succulent.

"Wait. I want to pick one piece up with the chopsticks and have a closer look." Chu Xiao suddenly thought of something and then asked Yuan Zhou while looking at him.

"Over there. Help yourself." Yuan Zhou still respected the rule of his restaurant, "Food should be made by one's own hands; only then will it taste better."

"Alright." Chu Xiao nodded his head.

Having taken the chopsticks, Chu Xiao took a deep breath and then breathed out again.

Only then did he start to pick the beef slice up.

"It truly is so." Chu Xiao instantly uttered while looking at the beef between the chopsticks.

"Hiss." Other chefs that stayed behind him couldn't help uttering that.

The reason why the beef slice made Chu Xiao comment like that and those chefs sigh admiringly was just because of its thinness.

The beef slice contrasted sharply to the ivory white chopsticks. Through the fine-grained beef, they could even see the chopsticks covered by the beef slice. It was thin but meanwhile quite tough and tensile, not breaking at all. Hanging on the chopsticks, it looked like a piece of scarlet white paper painted with the marble patterns.

"This is paper thin! And it was done by cutting without measuring." Master Cheng almost couldn't snap out of his daze.

"Are we shooting a film?" A chef suddenly said that.

Another even said, "Master Yuan is ascending the heavens."

No way out. This technique of Yuan Zhou was way too amazing.

"Beef Sashimi." Suddenly, Chu Xiao said affirmatively.

"Indeed. This can be eaten directly. As the part between the rib eye steak and sirloin, it's soft and succulent and we can clearly see the conspicuous frost pattern. The quality is superior and the texture is fantastic." Yuan Zhou uttered a long speech while wearing his face mask.

"Cutting Beef Sashimi without measuring." This time, Chu Xiao added another two characters. He appeared to be indifferent and calm, however, there was a slight radiance of surprise in his eyes.

"Take your time and enjoy, please." While he was saying that,

Yuan Zhou didn't prepare the chopsticks and sauces as usual.

Then, the chefs all ran to take the chopsticks. When they came back and found there were no sauces, they immediately uttered anxiously.

"Master Yuan, you forget to make the sauce. I...." When Master Cheng just wanted to say he had confidence in that, he thought of the embarrassment just now and hence shut up his mouth involuntarily.

"It's perfect to eat it now without sauce," said Yuan Zhou. Afterwards, he began to wash up straightforwardly regardless of others, because he would have proper business to do shortly.

Chu Xiao ate it first and then Master Cheng followed suit. He picked one piece up and stuffed it into his mouth immediately.

The beef was way too thin. As soon as it entered his mouth, the beef melted upon touching the warm mouth cavity. With some more bite, the faint milky aroma blended with the sweet and refreshing succulent beef flavor instantly occupied the entire taste bud.

"Good. It's super delicious." Master Cheng said affirmatively after he gulped it down.

"Hey! How can you guys do like this? I have only eaten one piece." Right after Master Cheng praised the dish and reacted, he found the plate had been empty. Then he said in surprise.

"How many pieces do you think there are? The beef is barely enough for everyone to eat one piece." Another chef who ate only one piece also said that helplessly.

"Master Yuan, you can start now." The aged chairman set down the chopsticks without a trace and urged him primly.

"Yeah, yeah. Those ingredients should have been cooked earlier." Lee Yanyi immediately echoed.

"One moment, everyone. The dishes are to be served one after another." Yuan Zhou changed a new face mask and then said loudly.

"He's truly an awesome opponent, haw-haw." Chu Xiao had sat back quietly in a handsome sitting position. While looking at Yuan Zhou, he revealed a strong desire to fight back.

Having eaten the dishes, the chefs all became silent. Any words were feeble and futile while only delicious dishes lasted long.

Master Cheng savored the aftertaste in his mouth for a while and looked again at Yuan Zhou. Then, he made up his mind reluctantly and came over to Yuan Zhou.

"Master Yuan, sorry to bother you." While looking at Yuan Zhou, Master Cheng appeared rather solemn.

"Go ahead." Yuan Zhou set down the kitchen knife.

"Could you do me a favor? Of course, you don't need to answer me now." Master Cheng looked around at the surroundings and said that.

"Um." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"I want to revere you as my teacher. I will go to visit you one week later. You can tell me your answer then." Master Cheng said that in one breath and then left straightforwardly, not giving Yuan Zhou any chance to react.

"Interesting!" It was Yuan Zhou's turn to say so this time.

All chefs on site were looking at Yuan Zhou that remained expressionless and all wanted to know if he would agree. After all, any techniques for vegetable washing or cutting of Yuan Zhou deserved to be learned.

Then, here comes the problem. Would Yuan Zhou agree?

...

Chapter 386: Appetite Depends on One's Mood

Of course, he was unwilling to agree. The reason was very simple. Since even he himself wasn't the Master Chef, how could he teach others?

Yuan Zhou's thoughts were just that simple, therefore the chefs that watched the scene were destined to be disappointed as Yuan Zhou had calmed down and started to cook dishes.

The chefs were reluctant to bother him while he was cooking earnestly. Judging from his attitude, he looked as if he were creating an exquisite work of art.

"How fragrant!" Without the system's shielding, the fragrance spread little by little among the chefs.

Then, none of them cared about other things anymore. They were all fully attracted by the fragrance.

With Yuan Zhou's current capabilities, the deliciousness of the top-notch food ingredient couldn't be fully displayed, let alone these ingredients weren't that good. That was why the fragrance would spread out.

The best dishes should only emit its flavor just when it was served to the customers in order to stimulate their taste buds first.

"This is the dish of Fish Jumping Back Home prepared by Master Yuan. Please take your time and enjoy." The waiters carried the dishes onto the table one after another. Each of them were steaming hot and were carried to the customers as soon as they were done.

The amount of each dish was not much and furthermore, was split into two servings. Therefore, everything was basically gone after each person took a little.

"Master Yuan, this is way too little." Xing Min wasn't happy with the amount and hence said that loudly.

"The amount of each dish is based on the food ingredients." Yuan Zhou answered during the intervals of cooking.

Yuan Zhou stated very clearly that the ingredients were too little.

Then, Xing Min reacted immediately and said to the chairman, "Grand Master Zhou, you are so stingy. Why did you provide so little ingredients to dozens of people?"

"If you feel it is too little, you can go get more by yourself." Zhou Shijie said disapprovingly.

"You are the chairman, not me." Xing Min said blankly.

"Never mind. After I pass away, I will appoint you to be the chairman." Zhou Shijie said smilingly.

"Come on, man. I still prefer to be leisurely like an old man." Xing Min refused him immediately.

"Haw-haw-haw. Yanyi, he's recommending you to be the chairman." Zhou Shijie wasn't a nice guy, either. He directly turned his head and said to Lee Yanyi.

"I don't want to lower myself to your level. Do you think you are in the right?" Lee Yanyi raise his head and straightforwardly said to Xing Min.

"Ho Ho. None of my business now." Zhou Shijie cared nothing about the two people wrangling beside him.

He reached out his chopsticks and tried to pick up some of the delicious dish which was just carried to them.

However, he wasn't as quick as Chu Xiao who had both body height and long hands.

"Young man, do you know what 'respecting the old and cherishing the young' means? As a young and robust man, you'd better eat less." Zhou Shijie said with a low voice.

"It is just because I'm young that I must eat more." Chu Xiao said while eating, without even raising his head at all.

Then, things became boisterous on the dining table. Just for something to eat, everyone lost their pride as a master.

On another table, the situation wasn't much better.

"Master Cheng, you have requested Master Yuan to be your teacher and will have many chances to eat his dishes. So eat less," said Master Fang with his silver tongue.

"Never. Master Yuan hasn't agreed. Maybe he will after I eat some more." Master Cheng wasn't taken in. Neither his hands nor mouth stopped.

The waiters that passed the dishes would be replaced after each carried one dish up. What a joke! If they didn't change, they would probably take some dishes to eat. Even so, however, those waiters both loved and hated to pass the dishes.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou that had caused all that, left an ingredient for the last, the Empurau. It was his favorite ingredient and he prepared to cook a dish of Fish in Boiling Soup for himself.

As soon as the hot oil was poured inside the blue and white porcelain pot, the white and tender fish flesh, the chopped green onion, the crisp fried fish scales with beautiful shapes, and the brilliant red wilder pepper all immediately emitted a sound of "Zi Zi", like a melodious symphonic music.

Along with that, the spicy and fragrant taste instantly filled the whole banquet hall.

"Oh. What a marvelous scent!" Xing Min sighed with admiration.

Without saying anything, Lee Yanyi directly stood up and walked to Yuan Zhou. The matter of quarreling with his old rival was totally unimportant.

As a very smart person, Yuan Zhou wasn't likely to stand still and

just wait there. He had already carried the pot and slipped away.

At that time, the effect of exercising every day was well shown.

"It's really incomparably fresh and delicious with some special fragrance like the avocado. It's worth it." Yuan Zhou revealed a contented expression while eating the fish meat, of which one simple gulp was worth over 600 RMB.

"It's said that the fish can only be steamed in clear soup, but the spicy and hot taste also seems good." While eating, Yuan Zhou said blissfully.

"Things provided by others for free are so tasty." With his chopsticks moving continuously, Yuan Zhou sighed with emotion ceaselessly.

No one really knew why things of others tasted better than one's own.

The fish was eaten with great difficulties. The chase just now made Yuan Zhou feel that the fish was even fresher and more delicious.

He deserved to be chased. An entire 1.5-kilo fish was cooked by Yuan Zhou into a dish of Fish in Boiling Soup for himself, not leaving any broth to them. Even the edible fish scales were all deep fried and eaten.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou wiped his mouth clean elegantly after eating up the whole dish and then went out of the hotel from the back door that he had found beforehand. After that, he took a cab and left in plain sight.

"Ka La", after the back door was shut, Yuan Zhou couldn't help laughing out loudly.

"It was a really impressive day." Yuan Zhou clenched his fist excitedly.

Looking at the brand-new high-tech kitchenware all over the

kitchen, Yuan Zhou genuinely felt that he was very fortunate.

"Ta Ta Ta", Yuan Zhou took a few steps and came to the window of his own room. He craned his neck and looked down at the entrance downstairs, happening to see Broth sneeze.

"Tsk-tsk. It seems to be a sunny day tomorrow." Yuan Zhou said with a smile.

The elderly often said, "Dogs sneezing welcomes a sunny day."

...

Just as Yuan Zhou thought, he had a good sleep overnight. Early next morning, he got up and exercised as usual, preparing to cook breakfast afterwards.

Customers came and went as always. None of them knew that Yuan Zhou had showcased his great brilliance at the end of the contest yesterday and almost received an inner disciple.

Time passed by among the hustle and bustle. Not long after, lunch time came.

"Hello. What do you want to eat today?" Zhou Jia asked politely as usual.

"Same as before. One meat dish, one vegetable dish and one soup." The man said gently and courteously.

"Ok. Please tell me." Zhou Jia nodded her head and prepared to take the order.

"One serving of Silk Twined Rabbits ordered yesterday, one serving of Jinling Grass and one serving of the Clear Broth Noodle Soup Set." The man was quite earnest when he ordered dishes. Only after Zhou Jia finished jotting down the order did he take his look away.

"One moment, please. The dishes are to be served right away." Zhou Jia nodded her head.

"Um. I am not in a hurry." The man in a suit said mildly.

"Of course you are not worried. You're someone who would sit there for two hours." Upon hearing that, Zhou Jia couldn't help muttering inwardly.

However, someone helped her to ask him this time. It was Ling Hong. This person normally cared little about others. He only acted normally when he was talking to Yuan Zhou.

"Are you staying here for so long every time to learn Boss Yuan's technique secretly?" Once Ling Hong talked, he attracted a lot of hatred.

"This young man who never eats discounted dishes, I don't think I know you." The man in suits raised his head and said while looking at Ling Hong.

"Hey, this nickname is interesting." Ling Hong's attention was instantly diverted.

However, the dialogue between the two people attracted Yuan Zhou's attention. He was also curious why this person stayed for so long every time. He looked so mild, but nevertheless refused to give his seat to others when he was asked to.

It was a little strange, oh no, it was very strange...

Chapter 387: A New Side Mission

"Thank you," the man in a suit said courteously.

"Did anybody praise you?" Ling Hong frowned.

Zhou Jia wanted to laugh at the side. Due to her professionalism, however, she managed to refrain herself from doing so. She merely turned around and reported the names of the dishes solemnly.

The man in a suit nevertheless cared little about their jokes.

"Why do you always sit here and not leave every day?" Ling Hong pointed at the man in a suit and asked immodestly.

"This young man who never eats discounted dishes, it seems to be none of your business." Although the smile of the man in a suit turned into an artificial smile, he nevertheless still looked to be very gentle.

"Yeah, it's indeed none of my business. So my question is also none of your business. You just need to answer me and that will be fine," Ling Hong said quite naturally.

If it was said by others, Zhou Jia would inevitably grumble that he was so shameless. However, it was quite different since this person was Ling Hong. When she heard that, she felt it quite natural, but the man in a suit didn't think that way.

"Ho Ho." Instead of giving him an answer, the man in a suit just laughed.

"What are you laughing for? Tell me the reason, please." Ling Hong looked at the man and said that.

"Sorry. I'm not prepared to tell you," the man said decidedly.

"Interesting. However, I must know it today." Ling Hong looked at the man with much interest.

"Mr. Ling, here are your dishes." Zhou Jia carried his dishes to him.

"Um." Ling Hong nodded his head. Just when he was about to inquire him again, Zhou Jia carried the dishes to the man in a suit.

This time, the man in a suit uttered ahead of him, "I'm going to have my meal now."

Then, Ling Hong became stuck with his words and didn't know what to say. After all, the man came here for meals rather than listening to him ask questions.

Fortunately, Ling Hong knew this man wouldn't leave after the meal, therefore he was relieved and thus started to savor his food carefully.

In just that short while, the restaurant fell silent. Every customer was eating his own dishes.

Seeing the man not explain anything, Yuan Zhou quelled his curiosity temporarily and began to prepare other dishes earnestly.

However, the silence didn't last long, because Ling Hong had finished his meal.

"I'm done. You can call the next person now." Ling Hong wiped his mouth elegantly and then stood up before saying to Zhou Jia.

"Ok. Thank you, Mr. Ling," Zhou Jia said smilingly.

"Um." Ling Hong nodded his head.

Only then did Zhou Jia call the next customer to come inside and have the meal.

Having finished his meal, Ling Hong became idle and he started to satisfy his curiosity.

"Come on. Let's talk." Ling Hong said to the man in a suit who was eating his meal.

"No need. I don't want to talk to you." The man refused blankly.

"Then I'll speak and you just answer," Ling Hong said naturally.

Without a word, the man in a suit just sat there still, not giving

his seat to others as always. He just stayed seated in the chair and ate leisurely.

"You should eat more quickly. Many people are still waiting for the seats." Ling Hong didn't really care about that. He just said that at the side.

"Are you eating slowly just to stay here longer?" Ling Hong even became worried when he saw how the man in suits ate the meal.

An adult man surprisingly ate meals in a way that dishes and plain cooked rice were eaten alternately. Not to mention the extreme slowness, he likewise liked looking around at others. Only after he peered around carefully did he lower his head and take a bite of food.

"You are also dressed decently and should not lack money for the meals. Why do you stay here for so long?" Ling Hong stroked his chin and revealed a curious expression.

"You really want to know?" The man in a suit might have been annoyed by his repeated questions and finally he turned his head and said to Ling Hong.

"Of course." Ling Hong nodded his head.

"Actually I feel the dishes here are way too common." Once the man talked, he uttered something surprising.

Even Yuan Zhou gaped at him in surprise.

"I mean it. The taste is indeed common." Seeing Ling Hong not believe in him, the man in a suit said affirmatively.

"Ho Ho. Why don't you go to find a better restaurant or one that serves the equally delicious dishes? Of course, one without so many rules would be better," Ling Hong said ironically.

"That doesn't exist. If there is one like that, I would have already gone there." The man in a suit said sincerely.

"I have never expected that you would give this reason. So you

feel the dishes are quite common and hence would stay here for a whole afternoon every time you come?" There was sarcasm in Ling Hong's tone.

"Yes. I do that because of the painting and the people." The man in a suit pointed at the painting *People Passing by A Small Restaurant* by Wu Hai and said earnestly.

"Oh?" Ling Hong answered dubiously. He didn't quite understand the man.

"If there is a day when you don't come, I might not come, either," the man in suits smiled and said.

"That would really be my honor." Ling Hong laughed ironically.

Then, he fell silent. In his opinion, Yuan Zhou's dishes were rare delicacies in the world, but the man surprisingly felt them very common. Obviously, he was acting in front of the customers. What a joke! How dare he act in front of him?

"Can you tell me what makes you feel the dishes are common?" After a short while, Ling Hong asked.

"The common thing is that I can't taste it." The man in suits pointed at his own mouth and said mildly.

"I think you had better eat the salt directly in order to taste it." Ling Hong said directly.

"I would definitely be able to taste more that way." The man in a suit nodded his head.

"Forget it. I don't want to talk with you more." Ling Hong suddenly became uninterested in knowing the genuine reason. He turned around and prepared to leave.

At that time, the man in a suit paused for an instant and then uttered, "Because I can't tell what the taste is and I don't have a sense of taste."

Ling Hong paused his footsteps before he left.

"So that's the reason." After he went out, Ling Hong turned his head and took a look at the man in a suit.

He was still eating his dishes over there while looking around at the happenings in the restaurant. From his angle, he just could see everything in the restaurant.

Only now did Ling Hong understand the meaning of the man in a suit. Since he couldn't tell the taste, he naturally couldn't distinguish how good the dishes were. What he came to eat was no more than the feelings of the restaurant itself and hence he was naturally reluctant to give his seat to others.

He had also understood the meaning of his words "If you don't come, I will not, either."

The man who liked staying here actually enjoyed the scene where Wu Hai ridiculed Boss Yuan everyday and Jiang Changxi flirted with Boss Yuan.

He also clearly remembered the heart-warming banner erected at the door, the person Ma Zhida who came every time there was a new dish and Lee Yanyi who always complained while eating.

Although he didn't know their names, he could recognize them. However, these matters were really very interesting, for example, the person Ling Hong who liked joking with Wu Hai. He only knew that Ling Hong never ate discounted foods.

He couldn't tell the taste, but an atmosphere was also very important to the meal.

"Haw-haw. Interesting." After that, Ling Hong shook his head smilingly and then left with big strides.

Their dialogue was also heard by Yuan Zhou. He set the dishes down and then walked to the man in a suit.

"Do you need a stronger taste?" Yuan Zhou asked lightly.

"No need. I'm good." The man in a suit refused him gently.

"Ok. Help yourself, please." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and then left.

While it was noontime at Yuan Zhou's end, it was nevertheless 10:30 p.m. in LA.

"Hey, Jack. How was your trip to China?" A friend of Jack asked curiously.

"Don't mention it. It couldn't be more terrible." Jack answered unluckily.

Jack indeed didn't want to mention the matter. However, it was not only him who had traced Yuan Zhou's IP address; hence, the matter that Yuan Zhou charged foreigners dollars only was finally made known on the forum.

Then, the matter was made known to more people.

A crowd of people kept quarreling on the forum. Some even intended to make complaints against Yuan Zhou while some supported him. There were even many Americans who supported him.

It was known to all that democracy, equality and freedom were what they had been advocated. Naturally, it was one of the free choices that anyone can make to decide which currency he could receive. After all, Yuan Zhou's restaurant wasn't opened in the US. If he opened the restaurant in the US, wasn't it very normal for him to receive only dollars?

Therefore, some people were still looking for an opportunity to come for tasting in order to satisfy their curiosity.

However, those who opposed Yuan Zhou's restaurant became so many that they even formed an alliance.

There were people from quite a few different countries. Yuan Zhou's restaurant instantly became famous in other countries now. Nonetheless, it wasn't a good fame, but instead the evil name of an unscrupulous merchant.

However, Yuan Zhou was totally ignorant of these troubles. He was very happy now, as the system released a mission again, a side mission.

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Chapter 388: The Nickname of Compass

The timing of the system releasing that mission was fairly good. Just when the lunch time ended, the system released the mission.

The system displayed, "A new side mission is available now."

"What the f*ck. I thought it was my phone that rang." When Yuan Zhou saw the characters displayed by the system, he didn't react immediately.

The system displayed, "Receive or not?"

"What the hell is wrong with you?" Yuan Zhou looked up and down dubiously.

However, the system didn't answer him at all. The several characters of "Receive or not" were still lingering in Yuan Zhou's mind quietly.

"How strange this is!" Yuan Zhou muttered a few words and then said to receive.

[Side mission] Complete 60 hours of pan-tossing exercises within 4 months (Mission tips: As a to-be Master Chef, your craftsmanship of pan-tossing still has to be improved. Please work hard to complete the mission. The time of the exercises can be arranged on your own, but you need to finish it within the scheduled time.) [Mission reward] Cooking Method of Vegetables Stir-fried With Mushrooms (Reward tips: The concealed reward is that you don't need to worry about the injury from overusing your wrists. This system will solve the problem for you automatically. No need for thanks.) "So this is the reward?" It was rare that Yuan Zhou didn't complain about the mission tips and reward tips of the system, but instead muttered thoughtfully.

"The mission starts from today or tomorrow?" Yuan Zhou asked.

The system displayed, "From tomorrow morning on, the time will be calculated officially."

"Alright." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

Then he took that LED writing board and began to write on it.

[Starting from today, the BBQ business hours will be prolonged by two hours every night until all business hours owed by me are paid off.]

The signature was naturally Yuan Zhou's.

"Well, that's good." After Yuan Zhou wrote that, he looked from left to right and then nodded his head contentedly, preparing to put it outside during the dinner time.

The reason why he didn't put it outside now was very simple. Only in the evening could the LED writing board shine brightly.

However, it was a different matter whether or not the customers liked the flashy colorful LED board appearing outside Yuan Zhou's restaurant. After all, they hadn't been quite used to Yuan Zhou's aesthetic tastes.

When the dinner time arrived, Wu Hai entered the restaurant first again.

"Boss Yuan, what time does the BBQ start?" Wu Hai cared about the foods more than anything else.

"9:00 p.m." Yuan Zhou gave a look of dislike at Wu Hai who only knew eating.

"Then why don't you make it clear? That way, I can come on time." Wu Hai contrarily said discontentedly.

"You live so close to me. You can come whenever you want." Yuan Zhou pointed at the building across the street and said randomly.

"By the way, I have a very serious problem." Wu Hai suddenly stroked his mustaches and said primly.

"Go ahead." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Since you are going to compensate us for the opening hours, do you think it is reasonable to compensate the previous ones?" Wu Hai stroked his mustache on the right side and said earnestly.

"Um?" Looking at Wu Hai, Yuan Zhou was a little puzzled.

"It doesn't matter. If you don't remember how much you have owed us, we can help you." Wu Hai signaled Yuan Zhou to look back at his behind.

As expected, other customers behind all nodded their head one after another.

"Besides, I also have a small notebook that includes that information." Wu Hai took out a notebook and said deservedly.

"No need. I still remember." Yuan Zhou interrupted Wu Hai.

"We seem to be able to eat the BBQ in the recent few months," Man Man said happily at the side.

"Sorry, I don't intend to make up for the leave before." Yuan Zhou frowned and said with an earnest expression.

"Then why are you making up for the leave you took this time?" Then, all the customers became muddled. Wu Hai asked consciously.

"My principle is that I can't let the customer's time be delayed due to my personal affairs. But previously, none of those was my personal affair." Yuan Zhou stood straight and said earnestly.

"Ok. Got it." Wu Hai nodded his head with a spiritless manner.

"No wonder you are called Compass. You really distinguish things clearly." Man Man revealed a speechless manner.

"If they aren't your personal affairs, what exactly are they?" Wu Hai suddenly raised his head and asked curiously.

"Business hours begin now. Please order your dishes." For those questions that he didn't want to answer but didn't know how to refuse, Yuan Zhou would change the subject skillfully.

"Boss Yuan, this change in subject is really too abrupt." Man Man couldn't help complaining.

"No, it's not. I'm serious." Yuan Zhou indicated the time was up.

"It really is. Let's order the dishes quickly." When Wu Hai found the time was truly up, he said to Zhou Jia beside him.

Then, the customers began to order their dishes. After all, they were all under the supervision of the queuing committee. If they ate faster this time, they could also get their turn when they came late next time.

It was difficult to sacrifice for others while easy for themselves.

The advance notice of Yuan Zhou still made many customers feel relieved, as they had felt perturbed when there wasn't such notice days ago.

Previously, Yuan Zhou had promised to make up for the loss of time, but there was no more news after that. Although the customers all wanted to ask about that, they didn't know how to ask. Even the most thick-skinned people, Wu Hai and Ling Hong, didn't ask, let alone others.

Luckily, Yuan Zhou decided to make up for it voluntarily.

The compensation for the loss of time was like winning the prize. Many customers rushed over here from a distance. All ate blissfully and appeared quite happy.

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"Boss, I'm clearing these things away." Shen Min went up and said when the BBQ time ended.

"Ok, go." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

It was rare for Shen Min to have so much work to do. Instead of feeling annoyed, she felt quite relieved. Therefore, she started to work quickly.

When she finished her work here, the pub was almost done as

well. After clearing everything up, it was the time for her to get off work.

The first day to make up for the lost time passed quietly like that.

On the next day, Yuan Zhou arranged a time to practice tossing the pan in the afternoon.

"System, is this what you have prepared?" Yuan Zhou asked while looking at the newly-appeared pan and spatula as well as the brand--new iron sand.

The system displayed, "Host, you can use it to practice. The injury from overuse will vanish automatically every night when you go to bed."

"Alright." Yuan Zhou took a deep breath and then began to practice.

He took the pan with his left hand and the spatula with the right. Then, a sound of "Hua Hua" passed from inside of the pan.

"Never expected that I still need to practice tossing the pan every day now." Yuan Zhou suddenly complained.

Instead of relaxing, however, he was still practicing earnestly.

"Hua Hua Hua", the rhythmical sound emitted in Yuan Zhou's restaurant.

About half an hour later, Yuan Zhou's phone suddenly rang, unwilling to remain out of the limelight.

"Ling Ling Ling, Ling Ling Ling"

"The time seems to be up." Yuan Zhou put the tools down precisely.

Then, he began to prepare the ingredients required by the dinner.

Right after that, he prolonged the BBQ time as arranged by two hours. Therefore, he had no more time to practice.

It was not until Yuan Zhou went to bed did the system appear suddenly.

The system displayed, "Host, you have only practiced for half an hour today."

"Yeah, right." Yuan Zhou leaned against the bed and flipped the book.

The system displayed, "According to this system's calculation, your limit is one hour."

"It turns out that you have even made the evaluation." Yuan Zhou said calmly.

The system displayed, "Yes."

"You think I'm supposed to practice more?" Yuan Zhou was enlightened and asked.

However, the system didn't answer him anymore.

Yuan Zhou didn't expect the system to answer him, either. It was only half an hour later when his reading time ended did Yuan Zhou reply before he went to bed, "I have my own plans.

As for what Yuan Zhou's plan was, it was unknown to others...

Chapter 389: Posture in Front of the System

A night passed by quickly.

"Ding Ling Ling, Ding Ling Ling". Yuan Zhou woke up to the ringing of his alarm clock.

After he got up early in the morning, Yuan Zhou didn't go out for jogging this time. Instead, he washed up and went to the kitchen downstairs immediately.

"Hoo. I can practice for half an hour." Yuan Zhou took the pan and spatula and adjusted his breathing.

Right afterwards, there came the sound of the pan touching the iron sand in the quiet kitchen. "Shua Shua Shua".

The system was a little surprised at Yuan Zhou getting up early, giving up the morning exercises and practicing the pan-tossing. After all, in the opinion of the system, Yuan Zhou paid much attention to his figure.

However, it was no more than being surprised. Yuan Zhou only practiced for half an hour yesterday and that was the most relaxed way to practice.

Nonetheless, the system made a wrong guess this time.

In the restaurant, somebody found some clues.

"Do you feel that something is wrong with Boss Yuan today?" Wu Hai came every day and hence he was quite clear about Yuan Zhou. He turned his head and asked Chen Wei beside him.

"What is it?" Having gulped down a beef kebab, Chen Wei took a look at Yuan Zhou and asked with puzzlement.

"It seems that his hands aren't placed on the grill at all." Without any hesitation, Wu Hai swallowed up a shrimp kebab down without spitting out the shrimp shell and then said that, pretending to be serious.

"Do you still caring about that?" Chen Wei had never paid attention to that. To him, the meat dishes and good wine occupied all his attention.

No one really cared about where a chef put his hands.

"One of a painter's hobbies was to watch others' hands." Wu Hai answered perfunctorily.

"What exactly do you want to say?" Chen Wei felt quite puzzled and thus he asked.

"Boss Yuan seems to be very tired today. I even saw him frown just now. With his respect toward the food ingredients, he would seldom frown while cooking." Wu Hai said earnestly.

"It's indeed a tiring job to attend to a restaurant alone. Why don't we suggest Boss Yuan employ an assistant?" Chen Wei said seriously.

"We can try." Wu Hai nodded his head.

It was the second day after he started to practice. The reason why Yuan Zhou behaved like that was because he practiced for another half an hour in the afternoon.

Therefore, the consequences of practicing were then revealed. His waist, shoulders and arms were almost all protesting.

"It turns out to be so complicated. It seems that 6 hours of business time per day is the critical point of this body." Yuan Zhou thought that inwardly.

Luckily, there were only two hours for the BBQ time every day. It passed very soon.

When Yuan Zhou took a shower before he went to bed, he did some appropriate stretching exercises in order to relieve the aches of his muscles.

"Luckily I have the system." Yuan Zhou lay on the bed and said thankfully.

On the next day, however, Yuan Zhou found that he shouldn't hold too much hope toward the system.

"Didn't you say it can remove the injury from overdoing it?" Yuan Zhou grasped his aching left hand with the right one and asked the system expressionlessly.

The system displayed, "The injuries from overdoing it has been removed."

"Then why do my arms still ache?" Shown on Yuan Zhou's face was an expression of "Are you fu*king kidding me?"

The system displayed, "After strenuous exercises, the human body will generate much lactic acid. If it can't be gotten rid of in time, it will bring about an aching feeling to the muscles and meanwhile result in the rapid increase of the force and flexibility of the muscles. However, the physical damage that may cause a change to the structural components of muscles has been removed. The problems of the increase of metabolism and the toxicity of the metabolic waste to the organs have all been solved."

"So you mean you only solve the worries behind, but leave the aches to me, don't you?" Yuan Zhou summarized briefly.

The system displayed, "Host, your conclusion is quite right."

Yuan Zhou had already known about the system's usual temperament and hence didn't feel strange at all.

"Ok. Got it." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

Then, he tried to make some stretching exercises in order to relieve his aches.

Time is like the sand in one's hand. The more tightly you grasp, the easier it runs off. By then, Yuan Zhou had insisted on practicing his pan-tossing for more than half a month.

As usual, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was visited by many customers every day. He acted the same while cooking dishes, knitting his

brows slightly yet with a solemn and earnest expression. When he greeted the customers, he remained indifferent and earnest and never spoke more than necessary.

The regular customers all noticed that Yuan Zhou spoke less recently and looked to be very tired. Nonetheless, his dishes tasted better than before now.

Even Lee Yanyi agreed.

Almost all the regular customers of Yuan Zhou's restaurant knew now that Lee Yanyi was a well-known gourmet. If he said it was good, it was truly good."

"You are still young. Be cautious not to die from fatigue." After he finished the meal, Lee Yanyi didn't leave right away, but said that.

"Um. Thank you. I will not." Yuan Zhou was lost in a daze for a while and then answered.

"Then get some more rest." Seeing Yuan Zhou not really follow his instructions, Lee Yanyi said that angrily and then left.

"Hey, Boss Yuan..." Wu Hai also prepared to say something, but he was interrupted by Yuan Zhou.

"Don't talk. Look there." Yuan Zhou secretly pointed to a young man and girl that sat together at the table for two today.

"Ah, it's them." Wu Hai and the customers eating beside him controlled their desire to look at them together.

They just took a glimpse at them occasionally.

"I bought many things with me today. Can you, could you please receive them?" The young man was the one that often came for meals. This time, he still talked with a low voice and perturbed manner as always.

The girl was just sitting face to face with him. She was dressed in a white woolen sweater and a chunky cotton languette, looking gentle and beautiful. Hearing that, she raised her head and looked

at the man. Then she revealed a big smile, neither agreeing nor refusing him.

"This is the mini umbrella, this is the notebook, this is the mirror and this is the pen. And this one and this one..." When the young man saw the girl not refuse him, he took out a pile of things from the backpack.

The little things were scattered all over the small table.

"Could you please receive them all?" The man asked anxiously.

For quite a long while, the girl remained silent. The atmosphere was a little quiet. Just when the man lowered his head and dared not look at the girl, being about to give up, the girl reached out her white hand and picked a key ring up.

The action was like a slow motion that replayed in front of the man. With his whole face turning red, the man looked at the girl and again at the things all over the table from time to time and couldn't say anything due to the excitement.

In the end, he surprisingly uttered, "Thank you. Thank you."

And the girl also nodded her head shyly.

When they were sitting together, it was actually like a silent play. The girl never talked and the young man only said something occasionally, but still didn't speak about anything else.

Right now, they started to eat their dishes quietly again. When there weren't any new dishes, the man would not speak as well. They did nothing other than sitting and eating together.

Apart from that, the young man only went to line up when he saw the girl come outside. It was like that every time. What the girl did most was probably to smile.

As Wu Hai diverted his attention away from the two persons, Yuan Zhou had already left to do his own work. Therefore, he had no more opportunity to ask Yuan Zhou.

"This guy is too cunning. I must ask him next time. Eating meals are the most important thing in my life." Wu Hai made up his mind inwardly.

As for Yuan Zhou, he naturally didn't know what Wu Hai was thinking. He was just looking at the two people being intimate over there and smiled faintly.

However, Wu Hai surely wouldn't have any opportunity.

In the evening, the system's reminder came again when Yuan Zhou finished his exercises for that day.

The system displayed, "Congratulations that you have completed the side mission perfectly in advance, host."

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Chapter 390: Posture in Front of the System (Continuation)

"Um. Will you release the reward now?" Yuan Zhou raised his wrist and looked at his watch.

It was 16:40. The opening hours for dinner were about to arrive. With regards to the upcoming time, Yuan Zhou gave a rare frown.

The system displayed, "Yes, right now."

"Ok. Thank you." Yuan Zhou nodded his head and seemed to let out a sigh of relief.

"Peng", Yuan Zhou set down the pan and spatula used for practice.

Right now, the pan did not have the appearance it had as of one month before.

It was so bright that it seemed to have been covered with a layer of grease, emitting a dark shine along with the iron sand inside the pan. It looked like the black small diamonds and seemed quite beautiful.

As for the pan and spatula, the part for scooping dishes had been polished until it was very thin and sharp by the abrasion of the iron sand and the pan. It was glistening with the silver light like a blade.

It was the achievement of Yuan Zhou after his practice for one month.

[Side mission] Complete 60 hours of pan-tossing exercises within 4 months. (Completed)

(Mission tips: As a to-be Master Chef, your craftsmanship of pan-tossing is still to be improved. Please work hard to complete the mission. The time of exercises could be arranged on your own, but you need to finish it within the scheduled time.)

[Mission reward] Cooking Method of Vegetable Stir-fried With Button Mushroom. (Available to be received)

(Reward tips: The concealed reward is that you don't need to worry about the overuse injury of your wrists. This system will solve the problem for him automatically. No need for thanks.)

"Receive." Looking at the reward, Yuan Zhou was a little excited.

Then the reward became a light spot and was straightforwardly absorbed by Yuan Zhou.

Yuan Zhou closed his eyes and remained still for quite a while.

It was quiet in the restaurant. After quite a while, the system appeared suddenly.

The system displayed, "Host, can you answer a question?"

"Wow, you surprisingly want to ask me a question?" Yuan Zhou opened his eyes and asked curiously.

However, the system just neglected his query and asked directly.

The system displayed, "Host, why do you want to complete the mission so anxiously?"

Yuan Zhou didn't answer him immediately, but instead, he kept silent for a while.

After quite a while, Yuan Zhou nevertheless said when the system thought he wouldn't answer him.

"It is rare for you to be my backup and hence I have no worries behind. So of course, I will try to work hard to complete it, let alone the benefits belong to me." Yuan Zhou said lightly and then continued.

"It's such a rare opportunity. Perhaps, I won't have such a good opportunity next time." Yuan Zhou didn't conceal his purpose at all.

The system displayed, "Host, you are truly a good chef."

"Thank you for your compliments." Yuan Zhou received this remarks immodestly this time.

This time, the system was really shocked by the Yuan Zhou's speed of completing the mission.

Furthermore, his remarks for Yuan Zhou completing the mission were, "Perfect completion in advance."

On the first day, Yuan Zhou only practiced for half an hour. With the duration of half an hour per day, he needed four months to complete the mission. Instead of making a suggestion, the system only reminded Yuan Zhou.

On the second day, Yuan Zhou practiced for one hour. That time, Yuan Zhou felt slightly tired and aching in the arms. The system also told him dutifully that the ache wouldn't disappear and he could only help to remove the injuries from overdoing it.

On the third day, Yuan Zhou practiced one and half hours. He felt aching in his waist, shoulders and arms more, but he said nothing but just practiced silently like that.

Right after that, Yuan Zhou increased the practicing time to two hours per day. At that time, the system clearly reminded Yuan Zhou.

The system displayed, "Host, excessive practice does no good for your health."

"You help in removing the injuries for me thus it won't affect my health." Yuan Zhou said earnestly.

The system displayed, "Host, your mental exhaustion isn't in the scope of removal made by the system."

"I know. It's just like the aches of the muscles." Yuan Zhou nodded his head, indicating that he understood that.

Then, the system no longer said anything. He just watched Yuan Zhou excessively spend two hours on the practice every day.

Yuan Zhou ran the restaurant for 6 hours every day. If there wasn't any extra work, it was fairly reasonable and had barely reached the intention of the normal work fatigue. After all, no chef was easy.

If he spent another half an hour on pan-tossing practice every day, he would feel slightly tired and thus the overuse injury would get severe; if one hour, he would be very tired and hence the overuse injury would get more severe.

Only because of that did the system help to remove the injury from overdoing it.

However, another two hours of pan-tossing practice every day would surely be a burden to one's wrists.

The aches of muscles could only vanish after 5-7 days. However, people wouldn't be accustomed to continuous practice the very next day, but instead, would make people feel sorer unless it was done moderately. Apparently, Yuan Zhou wasn't doing that moderately.

In order to complete the mission within one month, Yuan Zhou even tried to practice for two and half hours and three hours per day. Of course, that attracted the system's remark.

The system displayed, "There are still 101 days before you finish the mission."

"Thanks for reminding me." Yuan Zhou didn't immediately react and had thought the system was calculating the remaining time.

Only after quite a while did Yuan Zhou react that the system was actually reminding him the time was still early and don't work so desperately.

However, Yuan Zhou just picked up the pan and spatula again and started to practice. The system didn't appear again, either.

"Hua La", Yuan Zhou pulled the door open and then found the customers lining up outside as expected. The foremost one was still

Zhou Jia.

Zhou Jia took a look at the spirited manner of Yuan Zhou and let out a sigh of relief. Then she said smilingly, "Boss, you look so handsome today."

Having worked here for so long, Zhou Jia knew what Yuan Zhou liked listening to. As a lively and vivacious girl, she sometimes really could say something and make Yuan Zhou happy.

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou thanked her seriously with a manner of "You really have sharp eyes."

However, Yuan Zhou was really happy as the system had just displayed a line of words just now.

The system displayed, "Host, you have surpassed the system's calculations."

"Of course. This prince charming always gives others a surprise." Yuan Zhou answered silently in his heart.

This time, the system didn't retort back at him. After all, it had experienced many hosts before.

Some were so lazy that they didn't work hard anymore after they got the system; some were paranoid geniuses; but only Yuan Zhou was an ordinary person who had persistence and desire to advance.

In most cases, ordinary people were really inferior to the talented people. Since there was this opportunity, however, Yuan Zhou would naturally try to seize it, let alone the reward had a special significance to him.

Back to reality. Hearing Yuan Zhou's answer, Zhou Jia was quite accustomed to that. What she felt happy for was that Yuan Zhou finally didn't look so tired but instead, seem fairly spirited.

"Everybody, the opening hours commence now. The first ten customers please come in." Zhou Jia greeted the crowd lining up behind with a smile.

"Whoops. Boss Yuan, you look so spirited today." Once the customers entered the restaurant, they said to Yuan Zhou while looking at him.

"People are in high spirits when involved in happy events. Boss Yuan, please tell us about your good story. Of course, the old rules are..." While speaking of that, the customer looked back at behind.

Other customers behind directly shouted together, "Except taking days off."

"I'm not taking days off. A matter worth being happy will happen tonight." Yuan Zhou gave a rare answer.

"Is it a blind date?" A customer who was being bothered for a blind date couldn't help uttering that.

"Have you thought of some new dishes?" Wu Hai always cared about eating more than anything else.

"Have you finally made up your mind to go on a business tour with me?" Ling Hong broke in timely.

"In my opinion, he's going to employ an assistant." It was the customer mentioned by Chen Wei.

"None of the above. Please order your dishes." Yuan Zhou shook his head and then said seriously.

"Of all important things, eating mattered the most. Jia Jia, time to order dishes." Wu Hai looked very happy today. He said while stroking his small mustaches.

"Ok. Coming." Zhou Jia nodded her head and answered.

After Wu Hai ordered his dishes, other customers followed.

Yuan Zhou was standing in the kitchen with an earnest expression and his arms crossed against his chest while Zhou Jia was taking orders busily outside. Everything appeared harmonious and nice...

Chapter 391: Vegetables Stir-fried With Mushrooms

"Xiao Li, I'm waiting for you at Yuan Zhou's restaurant along Taoxi Road." A young man dressed in a thin sweater said gently on the phone by the door.

"Got it. We meet there every time, but never eat there." A delicate grumble of a girl passed from the other end of the phone.

"Just wait until the end of the year. After I get my annual bonus, I will take you there to eat the Egg Fried Rice." The young man held his phone and said decisively.

"No need. I don't really feel like eating it anyway, just saying casually. Wait for me. I'll be there right away." The girl refused flatly and then said happily.

"No hurry. Just take your time. I'm waiting for you." The young man nodded his head and instructed her carefully.

Such matters often happened at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant and the customers that lined up there didn't feel strange at all at sight of that. After all, Yuan Zhou's restaurant was the most famous place around there.

Three hours were too short. The man in a suit had barely swallowed up his last mouthful of mineral water that came with the set.

"Everybody, today's opening hours have ended. Please come earlier tomorrow." Yuan Zhou stood in the kitchen and said earnestly.

"Zhou Jia, you can go back now. No need to clear these things away." Yuan Zhou turned his head and said to Zhou Jia who was prepared to tidy up at the side.

"Huh?" Zhou Jia looked at him with puzzlement.

"Go back now." Yuan Zhou waved his hand and moved the bowls and plates onto the transmission belt by himself.

"Boss, let me do it." Seeing Yuan Zhou doing the work by himself, Shen Min that had just arrived went up said that immediately.

"No need. You can go to the backyard to prepare now." Yuan Zhou gestured at the door of the sergestes wall.

"But..." Shen Min also became puzzled.

"Just go." Yuan Zhou stressed again in the end.

"What's wrong with our boss?" Shen Min asked Zhou Jia beside her with a low voice.

"I don't know. I was not allowed to move them just now." Zhou Jia was also very puzzled.

"Who knows? As long as he isn't angry." Wu Hai chose a seat and sat down randomly.

Generally speaking, when it was the time for the afternoon shift, Shen Min would always come earlier and help Zhou Jia to tidy things up. Only after that did she start to prepare for the opening of the pub. However, Yuan Zhou didn't let them tidy things up today, which was very rare.

Other customers that stayed behind also felt it to be strange.

After dinner, some customers wouldn't leave immediately, but would instead stay behind for a rest. And some stayed behind in preparation for drinking liquor. An example would be the novelist and Wu Hai that often came here for meals recently.

As well as the man in a suit that purely sat there and stared blankly.

Zhou Jia turned around and left when she saw Yuan Zhou almost finishing up the work. Shen Min, nevertheless, went into the pub and wiped all the tables first before she came back and stood quietly by the door of the sergestes wall.

"Hua La Hua La", Yuan Zhou turned on the tap and started to wash his hands very earnestly.

"Boss Yuan, are you still going to cook?" Su Mu asked that when he saw the strange demeanor of Yuan Zhou.

"Yes. Everyone, you all can go to the pub to wait." Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"Ok. But I prefer to watch you cook the dish here." Su Mu said smilingly.

"As you please." Yuan Zhou nodded his head indifferently.

Having washed his hands, Yuan Zhou took out a new handkerchief to wipe his hands dry and then put on a thin glove earnestly.

"It feels like a new dish as I have never seen Yuan Zhou cook it. Do we have any opportunity to eat it?" Wu Hai looked at Yuan Zhou earnestly at the side.

"But it's the very first time that I see Boss Yuan cooking at this time of the day." It was on this point that Su Mu felt strange.

"He might be busy recently and has time now." Wu Hai only cared about what Yuan Zhou would cook.

"It's also possible." Su Mu nodded his head.

The man in a suit only watched them at the side.

"Hoo." Yuan Zhou let out a solid breath and then pulled open the cabinet, where there were bright shiny and green vegetables.

Of course, the green vegetables were still planted in the soil. They looked luxuriantly green and incomparably fresh. One could even faintly see some drops of dew.

"Is that a green vegetable?" As a meat-eater, Wu Hai was a little disappointed.

"It really looks fresh and tender." The viewpoint of Su Mu was

nevertheless different.

"Of course. The supply channel of Boss Yuan is quite mysterious." Wu Hai shrugged and said that.

"But is he wearing gloves because he is afraid of dirt?" Seeing Yuan Zhou draw out the vegetables in a very weird way, Su Mu asked with puzzlement.

"This guy definitely doesn't want to touch the vegetable with his hands in order to make it maintain the best taste." Wu Hai had already witnessed what Yuan Zhou's obsession was like.

Yuan Zhou took about a plate's amount of vegetables and then stopped his movements. Afterward, he washed his hands quickly, changed another pair of gloves and opened another cabinet. Inside it was a length of wood with mushrooms growing on it.

"What the f*ck. The mushrooms are all so fresh that they are still on wood." Even a benign person such as Su Mu couldn't help swearing.

"People that have seen little regard many things as strange." Wu Hai didn't care about that at all.

What a joke! Who was Yuan Zhou? He was a person that could get the meat of an extinct cattle. Therefore, this little thing did not matter to him.

However, how would other chefs survive if Yuan Zhou cooked so perfectly? He had caused all the customers' sense of taste to become excessively sharp.

"It's said that the mushrooms have a nickname of 'meat among the vegetables'. It must be one of the home-made dishes, the Vegetable Stir-fried With Mushrooms." Su Mu revealed an expression of "I have already known it."

"We know that even if you don't say it." Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches and just waited for Yuan Zhou to get the dishes ready so that he could have a small portion.

"I can say anything I want." Su Mu humphed.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou wasn't affected by that at all. He took the bamboo knife and started to cut the mushrooms off.

The mushrooms on the wood all looked more or less the same. This 'same' meant only the size, not the shape.

Having cut six mushrooms off, Yuan Zhou stopped and then put the piece of wood back into the cabinet.

"Hua Hua Hua", the vegetables were washed very clean beneath the flowing water. After washing them, Yuan Zhou specifically placed the vegetables into water for a rinse and poured a thin layer of salt inside.

The washing method of mushrooms was a little more complicated.

Yuan Zhou put all the mushrooms into a big porcelain bowl and filled it up with water. Then, he stirred the water repeatedly with the chopsticks like how people stirred eggs. However, he couldn't damage the mushrooms at the same time. After that, the sand in the wrinkles of mushrooms began to sink to the bottom of the bowl slowly.

The brown sand sank to the snowy bottom of the bowl. Yuan Zhou picked the mushrooms out with the chopsticks and changed another bowl of clear water. With the same method, he changed the water four times and stirred the mushrooms for about a thousand times.

Only then did he bring out the mushrooms, ready to be used.

The green vegetables were naturally washed clean. He didn't use any ironware during the process, but just broke the leaves off with his hands.

"Duo Duo Duo", it was the sound of the bamboo knife striking the chopping board. Along the board, the mushrooms were cut into uniform slices by Yuan Zhou.

After all the ingredients were prepared, Yuan Zhou started to create a fire and cook.

"I feel that it will look better to use the entire mushroom." Su Mu turned his head and looked at Wu Hai, saying that.

"Whole mushrooms are indeed used more often in restaurants for better plate presentation and decoration." As a person who ate in most restaurants, Wu Hai said positively.

"That way, the appearance will indeed be worse." The man in a suit chimed in and said that.

"But Boss Yuan definitely has his own intentions for doing that." The unreasonable phenomena of other people naturally became reasonable at Yuan Zhou's end.

"Zi La Zi La", there passed a pretty sound of the hot oil touching the green vegetables and mushrooms.

It had originally been a quick-frying dish. Not long after, Yuan Zhou started to scoop it into the plate and put it aside.

"Deng Deng Deng", Yuan Zhou dragged out a folding table from one side of the stairway and laid it down quickly.

The table looked a little old but it was very clean. Having been soaked in grease for so long, it emitted the characteristic radiance of wood. The dish Vegetable Stir-fried With Mushrooms was placed by Yuan Zhou at the very middle of the table.

"Pub time has almost arrived. Shen Min, get ready." Yuan Zhou pulled off the face mask and said to Shen Min beside him.

"Ok, boss." Shen Min nodded her head.

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Chapter 392: To Become A Master Chef

"Everybody, the pub time has commenced. Come on in, please." Shen Min said to the customers that had been waiting in the restaurant.

"Wait. We are not in a hurry. I prefer to eat my dishes after Yuan Zhou finishes his meal." Wu Hai refused with a smile.

"Um. I have also never seen Boss Yuan eat." The novelist said with great interest.

"The wine won't slip away." Su Mu said to Shen Min with his mildest voice.

"Ok, ok." Shen Min blushed from Su Mu's smile and then lowered her head.

"Tsk-tsk. I also have a good appearance." Seeing the scene, Wu Hai stroked his own face and muttered, not intending to show his weakness.

"Not as good as me." Being sharp-eared, Su Mu immediately answered smilingly.

Regardless of their conversations, Yuan Zhou laid the table in the kitchen and then began to fill the bowl with plain cooked rice.

The electric rice cooker looked a little old. There was a pattern of peony flowers on the surface. When Yuan Zhou uncovered it, a burst of white smoke emitted from the inside.

The bowls that Yuan Zhou were taking weren't those used in normal times. Instead, they were two small celadon porcelain bowls and a big white porcelain bowl.

"It's..." Su Mu hesitated and didn't know what to say. Therefore, he could only stop talking.

After all, what was happening in this scene appeared quite obvious.

Yuan Zhou filled three bowls with plain cooked rice cleanly and put them at three sides of the square table respectively. He just kept silent all along and meanwhile carried a serious expression of expectation on his face, causing the customers at the side embarrassed and wanted to leave.

"Pa Pa", Yuan Zhou placed a pair of chopsticks at each of the three sides, 3 pairs in total.

"Time to eat." Yuan Zhou said softly, but it was still captured by the customers.

He carried the bowl up and by convention, picked some Vegetable Stir-fried With Mushrooms and then directly stuffed it into his mouth.

"Slurp Slurp", he started to chew.

There was a soft and tender texture as well as a slightly crisp feeling once the vegetable entered his mouth. And the taste was fairly refreshing.

As for the mushrooms, its fragrance nevertheless suffused all over his mouth. Along with the bland and refreshing taste of the vegetables, the two ingredients just brought out the best in each other. The most wonderful thing was that it also carried a delicate flavor of the tea oil, which stimulated the freshness and delicacy of the mushrooms. Then, an indescribable taste suffused immediately.

"It looks so good." Wu Hai couldn't help saying that.

"You must have starved to death in your past life." The novelist looked at Wu Hai and said earnestly.

"I agree." Su Mu said with a low voice.

Only the man in a suit stared at Yuan Zhou without even blinking at the side.

Yuan Zhou ate up two mouthfuls of plain cooked rice and then

some Vegetable Stir-fried With Mushrooms again.

He ate up the dish with his brows knitted this time.

Right after that, he set down the chopsticks and looked at the dish on the table and the two vacant seats in a daze.

"It does not seem to be as delicious as last time." Yuan Zhou frowned and said. He didn't really understand what caused that.

"System, are the ingredients provided by you top-notch?" Yuan Zhou suddenly asked.

The system displayed, "The green vegetables used by the system is a top-notch breed from the South of China. The texture is light and fluffy while the aftertaste is creamy. It will get soft after being rinsed in water and carries a little sweetness, with the leaves tasting refreshing. It's sent to the host during the best time for harvesting."

"The mushroom is the fresh and tasty wild winter mushroom."

"This kind of winter mushroom is small and piebald. The taste is strong and fresh while the flesh is thick. It grows on deciduous woods of Hamamelidaceae between 15-20 years' old."

"The seed of the mushroom is from the border regions of the three counties of Jingjing, Qingyun and Sanshi of the Longquan Municipality, the oldest place where cultured mushrooms were first developed in history."

"The tea oil used this time is produced from the fruits of the one-thousand-year-old tea-oil trees in Yuanxi Village of Jiangxi Province. The oil color is a golden yellow while it is also clear and transparent; the flavor is delicate and the taste is quite pure."

"The tea oil produced in this particular village has been the article of tribute ever since the Ming Dynasty."

"Well... as expected." Yuan Zhou checked the system's answer and finally confirmed his.

The ingredients were indeed the best and even the tea oil for stir-frying the dish had some significant background. However, Yuan Zhou felt the resulting dish, on the contrary, was not tasty.

At least, not as good as what he had imagined.

Yuan Zhou was a little dumbfounded. He just sat there quietly.

"Boss, if you don't mind, I want to taste the dish." The man in a suit suddenly uttered.

His voice sounded quite abrupt and loud in the quiet restaurant.

"Hey, you stop." Su Mu was a little exasperated, but it was inappropriate for him to say anything.

Obviously, Yuan Zhou was having dinner with his parents that had passed away. And the behavior of the man in a suit didn't seem to be appropriate.

"You brat. You are even braver than me." Wu Hai stroked his small mustaches and said.

"What do you think?" Then, the man in a suit looked at Yuan Zhou and asked that. He just turned a deaf ear to others' words.

"You want to eat?" Yuan Zhou raised his head and looked at the man in surprise.

Yuan Zhou knew that he didn't have a sense of taste, which meant that he couldn't taste anything from eating. That could probably only be described as "tasteless as wax". It might be not an enjoyment to him for delicacies to be eaten that way.

Therefore, Yuan Zhou felt very surprised when he wanted to eat it voluntarily. If it was the shameless person like Ling Hong or Wu Hai that requested that, it wouldn't be so strange then.

"If you don't mind, boss." The man in a suit nodded his head mildly.

"If you don't mind, I don't think they will mind." Yuan Zhou considered for a while and said that.

"Sorry for bothering you." The man in a suit stood up and prepared to receive the plate carefully.

"Please." Yuan Zhou handed him the chopsticks.

"What the f*ck. This brat has surprisingly grabbed dishes from that Compass. He is snatching food from the jaws of a tiger." Su Mu was quite surprised.

"I'm thinking where I can get a pair of chopsticks. I don't mind, either." While stroking his mustaches with one hand, Wu Hai prepared to get a pair of chopsticks.

"What a coincidence! I have few pairs." The novelist took up some cooked food that was well wrapped and said smilingly.

"Let's share together." Wu Hai said with an earnest expression.

Whilst Wu Hai, Su Mu and the novelist were unpacking the chopsticks, the man in a suit was already eating.

Having eaten only one mouthful, he said, "The dish is really delicious."

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou nodded his head courteously and didn't really take it seriously.

After all, the man in a suit couldn't tell the taste and as for Yuan Zhou, he didn't feel it to be delicious at all.

"Come on. How could one tell the taste so easily? Let us help for free." Wu Hai said rightly.

"Please." The man in a suit made some room for them without hesitation.

The three of them immediately went up and were no longer particular about the way how they ate. What a joke! Ever since Yuan Zhou's restaurant was opened, they had managed to grab others' food for quite a few times. However, it was Yuan Zhou's plate this time. Therefore, the three people became more motivated.

They stuffed the dish into their mouth one after another.

"Woah, it is sooo delicious. Judging from its fragrant taste, this must be winter mushroom." The novelist said first.

"I must have eaten the fake Vegetable Stir-fried With Mushrooms formerly. I am a little sympathetic to that foolish me." Having just swallowed the dish afterwards, Su Mu made a gesture of holding the heart in both hands and revealed a sympathy in his peach blossom eyes.

"..." Without saying anything, Wu Hai merely ate there quietly.

"The craftsmanship of the boss is actually fairly good." The man in a suit suddenly said again.

"No, not as good as before, really." Yuan Zhou said earnestly.

"Before?" Only then did Wu Hai ask with puzzlement. In his opinion, the word 'before' meant one year ago or two years ago.

"This is the dish that my mother liked and was good at cooking. I'm not doing it as well as her." Yuan Zhou said sincerely.

"You might be able to surpass her in future." Wu Hai blurted out. But once he said that, he felt himself a little foolish.

"It might be after I become the Master Chef." Yuan Zhou said lightly, yet with a decisive expression on his face.

There was a thing called memory. It was quite horrible. Even if he greatly outclassed others in all aspects including color, fragrance, taste and ingredients, he was probably defeated by the taste in his memory.

The taste that could surpass that in his memory might only come in the future after he became the Master Chef.

Chapter 393: Protest From Abroad

"Boss Yuan, when will you serve this new dish?" Wu Hai wiped his mouth elegantly and asked.

"Not for now." The expression on Yuan Zhou's face was extraordinarily serious.

"Then why did you cook this dish today?" The novelist was a straightforward man and hence asked straightforwardly.

"It's only for me," Yuan Zhou said deservedly.

"..." The novelist instantly became speechless.

"I think it will be good to our health if you can increase the vegetable dishes quickly," Su Mu suggested sincerely.

"I think so, too." Yuan Zhou nodded his head, indicating he agreed.

"Then what about the time for the new vegetable dish?" Su Mu asked with an expectant look.

"When it's done well enough." Yuan Zhou said quite naturally this time.

"But I think it's just tasty now. Really, it's delicious." Wu Hai tried to prove his words by pointing at the clean plate.

"Half an hour of the pub time has passed." Yuan Zhou reminded earnestly.

"Damn it. I almost forget my liquor." The novelist rushed towards the backyard anxiously.

"Your skill in changing subjects is so awkward every time." Wu Hai said grudgingly.

"Never mind. I feel it's good and useful. Besides, it's also very considerate." Yuan Zhou appeared quite serious, but actually he wanted to laugh inwardly.

"That's really like the advertising slogan of a sanitary napkin." The man in a suit said abruptly.

"Haw-haw-haw. It really is like that." Su Mu laughed first.

Then, other customers all burst into laughter one after another.

It wasn't early anymore. Those who were supposed to leave had left while those who would drink liquor went to the pub.

Yuan Zhou nevertheless gathered all the remaining plain cooked rice together and cooked a serving of Egg Fried Rice. After that, he ate it up for his dinner.

Then, the dog Broth ate a small bowl of Egg Fried Rice as his midnight snack, rather than the noodle broth, for the first time.

"There's no broth today. I have only the Egg Fried Rice." While saying that, Yuan Zhou poured the rice into the bowl of Broth.

After Yuan Zhou left, Broth held the bowl in the mouth and went to the place where he had lived before.

"One that has a girlfriend won't accompany friends." Yuan Zhou shook his head and sighed.

It was going smoothly at Yuan Zhou's end. However, Wu Zhou was facing some troubles.

"Martin, let's have lunch together tomorrow. What do you think?" Wu Zhou chatted with somebody through Wechat.

"Ok. Sorry to bother you." A golden-haired man, namely Martin, picked up the phone and sent the message back earnestly.

Of course the message was in English, but they could use the translation software. That way, it would be Chinese when Wu Zhou received it.

"Have you made the appointment?" Zhuang Xinmu went up and asked at the side.

"Um. It's all because of the good luck that my sweetheart brings

me." While saying that, Wu Zhou went up and intended to hug his girlfriend.

"Stop. I'm folding the clothes." Zhuang Xinmu patted on Wu Zhou's arm reproachfully.

"Sweetheart, I want to apply for 2000 RMB to take that Martin for lunch tomorrow." Wu Zhou set Zhuang Xinmu down carefully.

"Ok. You have my approval." Zhuang Xinmu nodded her head smilingly.

"My sweetheart is so nice." Wu Zhou smiled blissfully.

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Even before lunch time arrived the next day, Wu Zhou had prepared to take Martin out for lunch.

Fortunately, they didn't have much work to do recently and could leave earlier. Besides, Martin came over here for a visit and exchange of pointers. Thus, he didn't really have to adhere to the time rigidly.

"Martin, we are going to the most famous local place around here, Yuan Zhou's restaurant now. The dishes there are awfully delicious." Wu Zhou got straight to the point.

"Oh, really? I will have to bother you then, Zhou." Unlike other programmers that spoke little, Martin was a man with an open and frank disposition.

"Not really. Since you come here, I must make you satisfied with the food here. Do you have any dietetic restraints?" Wu Zhou asked carefully.

"No, I don't. But I don't like the eggs that go bad." Martin knitted his brows while speaking of the egg.

"Are you talking about the preserved egg?" Wu Zhou knew that foreigners didn't like eating the preserved eggs.

"Yeah, yeah, you are right. That's the name." Martin revealed a

lingering fear on his face.

"Don't worry. There isn't this dish there. Can you eat spicy food?" Wu Zhou said smilingly.

"No problem. I can." Martin nodded his head.

"Then you follow me." Wu Zhou waved his hand and signaled Martin to go with him.

On the way there, Wu Zhou briefly introduced Chengdu City to Martin in English fluently all along and Martin just listened to him earnestly. Occasionally, he asked some questions. The atmosphere was quite harmonious.

"Here we are." Wu Zhou said while pointing at the crowd of people that lined up and waited to get the number ticket.

"It seems to be a good restaurant. Look, there are so many people." Martin looked at the crowds of people and sighed with emotion.

"Of course. The dishes here are so tasty that they can even outclass those made by any other restaurant in China." Wu Zhou said immodestly.

"It seems to be so." For that short moment, Martin had seen more than ten people join in the long line and thus he nodded his head.

"Hey, wait a moment. I feel that this restaurant is a little familiar." While looking at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, Martin revealed a look of deep thought.

"You might have seen this restaurant on some websites that recommend nice food. Look, those people are the tourists." Wu Zhou pointed at some people and said.

"Website. Oh, yeah, it's the website." On hearing that, Martin quivered. Then, he took out his phone and started to check.

"Yes, I got it. It turns out to be this restaurant evil-mind black-hearted shop." Martin pointed at the door of Yuan Zhou's

restaurant and said loudly.

"Haw?" Wu Zhou indicated that he suddenly couldn't understand English well.

"Zhou, you check by yourself." Martin handed his phone to Wu Zhou.

Then, Wu Zhou saw various comments on the website, all from abroad. Of course, there were also some comments in Chinese, but all of them were overwhelmed by the English comments.

[Hey, I don't believe it. Since the restaurant is so black-hearted, its dishes definitely taste terrible] from Radiance of Cilveti.

[But some say the dishes are not bad] from Abigail.

[I think we'd better go for a look in person and then make the conclusion. However, the price is indeed very high.] from William.

"This is ...?" Wu Zhou glanced at them quickly.

"It's said that the boss charges the foreigners dollars while for your fellow countrymen, he charges RMB." Martin shrugged and said.

"It's indeed like that. This is the privilege offered by Boss Yuan." Wu Zhou nodded his head.

"But it's quite unfair to us foreigners." Martin said discontentedly.

"Indeed." Wu Zhou nodded his head. He agreed to Martin concerning the "unfair" part.

"But it seems that injustice exists everywhere. Take the clauses of Screen Actors Guild concerning the protection to the Black people for example, if there's no discrimination, how would they protect?" Wu Zhou said that right after that.

"You are right, Zhou. But I won't eat here." Martin nodded his head, but still insisted on his opinion.

"Ok. I'm in favor of your decision. Then let's go to the western restaurant next door, shall we?" Wu Zhou didn't insist on persuading Martin, but only pointed at the western restaurant next door and suggested.

"Ok." Martin only nodded his head by then.

This was only one case out of many. Many foreign tourists came here. Some came over to visit Yuan Zhou's restaurant specially and some came to taste.

Therefore, the protests seen by Wu Zhou wasn't that fierce anymore.

When Jet Li became well-known to all by means of his film Shaolin Temple, the Songshan Shaolin Temple received the attention from all over the world.

During that period, many martial arts enthusiasts from all over the world studied in Shaolin Temple.

The instructors naturally wouldn't teach them for free. They also charged foreigners US dollars. And the entrance ticket was 10 times more expensive than that of the native people.

The price at that time was even as high as 1300 USD per month, which was approved by the authorities.

Therefore, there were examples for Yuan Zhou's differential treatment to the foreigners. Of the foreign tourists that came to Yuan Zhou's restaurant now, however, more were here to hunt novelty.

But most were there to protest...

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Chapter 394: Grand Disciple Ceremony

Wu Zhou took Martin to the neighboring western restaurant for lunch, with which Martin was very satisfied. After all, Li Li's culinary skills were extraordinarily wonderful.

"Surprisingly, I can even eat such an authentic steak over here. It's sooo good. Thank you, Zhou," Martin said with satisfaction.

"Thank you for your recognition." Before Wu Zhou could say anything, the waitress beside them smiled and said.

"Actually, the Swedish Meatballs or White Wine Mussels cooked in that restaurant are also all top-notch delicacies. Of course, there's also the Roasted Pork. These are also foreign dishes." Wu Zhou said without a trace.

"But I don't believe that." Martin shrugged.

"Ok. It's time to go. Have you finished?" Wu Zhou didn't insist, but turned to ask him.

"Ok. Let's go." Martin nodded his head.

"Di Di Da Da, Di Di Da Da"

A sound of trumpets and the drums being played came to their ears.

"It's so boisterous today. Zhou, is it a festival today?" Martin pointed at the line outside that acted as if they were to welcome the bride of a wedding and asked.

"No, it shouldn't be." Even Wu Zhou hesitated slightly.

The procession in front of them was, surprisingly, a team performing the dragon and lion dance, which appeared mighty and domineering.

"Let's have a look. It looks fairly interesting." Martin got very excited upon seeing that. He took out his phone and prepared to take pictures.

"Ok." Wu Zhou was quite interested in the procession that stayed at the door of Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Hearing that, he agreed to stay and watch conveniently.

"Boss Yuan, Master Yuan. Could you please come out for a moment?" The one standing in the front of the procession was obviously Master Cheng that had been refused half a month ago.

When Master Cheng specially came for a visit at that time, he was refused flatly by Yuan Zhou. When he wanted to have a meal there, he was told that he had to line up. After he lined up helplessly and then finished the meal, he made up his mind to try again.

What a joke! The dishes of Yuan Zhou's restaurant were even tastier than those cooked in the contest. The craftsmanship and ingredients were simply what all chefs longed for. If only he succeeded in taking him as his teacher, he could use such ingredients to practice his craft.

"What a sin! I should practice with some inferior ones and formally cook only with Boss Yuan's ingredients. How wonderful it would be!" Master Cheng muttered inwardly.

Then, he made up his mind and came over here instantly.

"My restaurant will be open for business in five minutes. Could you please make some room for my customers?" Yuan Zhou didn't intend to come out to watch when he heard the ruckus. But when he heard Master Cheng's words, he was unable to bear it and thus came out of the door solemnly.

"Listen to Master Yuan. Everybody, please step aside and make some room for Boss Yuan." Master Cheng turned his head and said immediately.

"If you come to have meals, you'll receive an extremely cordial welcome. If it's about other things, there is no need to speak." Seeing them step aside, Yuan Zhou immediately said that.

"Master Yuan, please look at this." Master Cheng handed his legible letter to Yuan Zhou.

Master Cheng appeared much older than Yuan Zhou, about 30 years old, but he respected Yuan Zhou very much.

"Thank you. But what I told you last time remains the same this time and I don't want to say it again." Yuan Zhou said indifferently without any other mood.

Of course, he was actually quite happy inwardly. Being respected in this way was both about prestige and affirmation of his culinary skills.

However, Yuan Zhou didn't really think his craftsmanship was good enough to receive any disciples.

He would rather receive a girl to be his apprentice than a man. As the old saying goes, men and women wouldn't feel tired if they worked together.

"Boss Yuan, could you please check it?" Master Cheng had made up his mind this time, thus he carried the letter persistently.

"Even if I check it, it won't change the result. Besides, we are all chefs." Yuan Zhou received the letter.

"Since you are more capable than me, you are my teacher even though I have been working as a chef for a longer time." Master Cheng said cleanly.

Yuan Zhou didn't answer him but instead, opened the letter in public.

"Head chef, do you think that young boss will agree?" There was a manner of great interest shown on the face of the chief chef.

"No, he won't. That guy is much too prideful." Li Li said affirmatively.

"He's indeed much too arrogant. He doesn't even respect us." The chief chef humphed and agreed to the comments given by Li Li.

However, what Li Li intended to say was contrary to the word "arrogant" mentioned by the chief chef.

"Boss Yuan is so awesome! Someone even came to pay their respects to him as his teacher." Seeing the ruckus, a customer also said proudly.

"Of course. Boss Yuan's craftsmanship is needless to say." Others echoed and complimented.

"This person has been here once, but he was refused by Boss Yuan last time." Another customer said mysteriously.

"Really? Why didn't I know that?" Other customers surrounded the one that seemed to know more and asked him curiously.

"It was more than ten days ago. This person is said to be some sort of certified master, the kind that is originally quite awesome." A customer pointed at Master Cheng and said.

"Still not so awesome as Boss Yuan." Other customers said one after another.

"Of course I know he's not as awesome as Boss Yuan. Otherwise, how is it possible for him to come here and pay his respects to Yuan Zhou as his teacher?" It was still the same customer.

"Let me tell you..." This customer started to describe the matter of paying respects to Yuan Zhou last time.

Having watched the scene, Martin and Wu Zhou were also talking over that.

"What does that man mean?" Martin pointed at the letter being held by Master Cheng and asked.

"That person wanted to pay his respects to Boss Yuan as his teacher, but he was refused." While Wu Zhou was speaking of that, there was a prideful feeling in his tone.

Just like those customers, it was a sort of acknowledgment when one's favorite thing was also liked by others.

"Why did he refuse that person?" Martin asked with puzzlement.

"Because Boss Yuan is a low-profile and modest man." Wu Zhou said earnestly.

"Maybe." Martin shrugged. Yuan Zhou didn't leave him a good impression.

However, he liked watching the situation very much.

The letter was written with the writing brush and was naturally about his desire to be taken as a disciple. Nevertheless, the signature was Zhou Shijie, the chairman of the China Chefs' Alliance.

"I really have nothing to teach you." Yuan Zhou received the letter and said earnestly while looking at Master Cheng.

Master Cheng didn't give up. On second thought, he said straightforwardly, "I can follow you and even do some chores."

"You can follow me, but you can't get into my kitchen." Yuan Zhou said directly.

"Although I can't cook as well as Boss Yuan, the preparatory work is nevertheless... Ok, no problem." Master Cheng had prepared to say he could do the preparatory work. Then, he thought of the traumatic experience of being slapped in the face and hence stopped saying more and then accepted that.

"That way, I'm not your teacher, so you don't need to call me teacher, either. And you still need to line up if you want to eat here." Yuan Zhou pointed at the line over there and said.

"Alright. Don't worry, Master Yuan." Master Cheng was satisfied with the result that he could follow him at any time.

Otherwise, he would have no justification to come here every day to watch Yuan Zhou cook, which would sound as if he was stealing something. Master Cheng indicated that he was also a prideful master.

Sometime, Yuan Zhou would doubt if he and the system had any thoughts in common. For example, the situation now.

Yuan Zhou had been unsatisfied with his current culinary skills ever since he cooked the Vegetable Stir-fried With Mushrooms. Yet, just now, the system gave him a new and interesting mission again.

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Chapter 395: A Chef's Test

"Business hours start now. Please come on in for your meals." Yuan Zhou checked the time and said to the customers that had lined up outside.

After that, he turned around and returned to the restaurant to prepare the food.

Master Cheng took two steps forward and then retreated back. Then he looked at the crowd that lined up outside and again, walked forward for two steps. After he stood there hesitating for quite a while, he said to the team of dragon and lion dance.

"Sorry to bother you, everybody. That's all for today. Thank you." Having said that, Master Cheng turned around and entered the restaurant.

The reason why he hesitated was quite simple. He wanted to eat Yuan Zhou's dishes. Since there were so many people outside, however, the business hours would have already ended when it was his turn. He would see nothing by then.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou received a new mission from the system.

The system displayed, "Here is a long-term mission with no time limit. Are you going to receive or not?"

"Receive." Yuan Zhou received the mission firmly on the way back to the kitchen. However, he didn't tap it open to check as the business hours had started again. Preparing dishes was now the most urgent thing.

"May I ask what you want to eat today?" Zhou Jia greeted the customers smilingly.

"A serving of Clear Broth Noodle Soup, please." Judging from the voice, it was a gentle girl.

"It's a total of 268 RMB. Here in our restaurant, we usually get paid first before serving the dishes." Zhou Jia reminded mildly.

"This is the money." The wallet of the girl was a little special. It appeared to be totally airtight. She took out the exact amount of money from it and handed to Zhou Jia.

"Ok. One moment, please." Zhou Jia put the money on the special tray and after that, she turned her head and reported the dishes.

The voice of the girl was quite melodious, but she looked around with a hesitant gaze. Seeing nobody notice her, she sat down with ease.

Customers seated around were either chatting with friends, looking at Yuan Zhou occasionally or tasting the dishes in front of them earnestly. All revealed a blissful and contented expression.

She had reasons to look around like that. Her name was Qi Lin and she came here for a meal for the first time. Of course, she was attracted here by the reputation of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, which was different from others.

She only decided to come over here when she saw such a comment on the forum.

The content was like that.

[Only Boss Yuan can cook those weird delicacies. One can't smell its fragrance from a distance, but when one gets closer, the dishes nevertheless emits the fragrance. The most peculiar thing is that even if someone is eating spicy and pungent food, you still can't smell it. It's a really great spectacle.] from Pig That Likes Observing.

The message instantly attracted Qi Lin as she didn't like scents. No matter if it was fragrant and smelly, she didn't like them.

Therefore, she would always wear a big face mask when she went out as she really didn't like smells. She wasn't good at cooking. Sometimes, she would rather eat some cold food or go to a

restaurant for the food.

However, she was too sensitive to smells, which made her wear a face mask even when she went to restaurants. For example, she was wearing a big face mask right now. It wasn't the kind only for decoration, but used to thoroughly cover her face, leaving her eyes exposed only.

The appearance was a little exaggerated; therefore, she was checking if anybody noticed her. She didn't like to be noticed by others.

"It surprisingly has no scent at all. The flavor of the perfume on that man's body even disappeared." Sitting in her seat, Qi Lin muttered to herself with her brows stretched.

"I hope the noodles don't have any scent later." Looking at the spacious and visible kitchen, Qi Lin prayed silently.

Qi Lin's prayer was quite helpful. The dishes were served to her very quickly.

"Miss, here are your dishes." Zhou Jia set down the noodles lightly and said.

"Sorry to be a bother." There was some more mildness in the melodious voice of the girl that passed from the face mask.

"You are welcome." Zhou Jia answered politely.

Then the noodles were carried to her and the slight fragrance drifted into Qi Lin's nose along with the heat.

"It really is like that. Fortunately, it's within my tolerance." Qi Lin felt slightly relieved.

She took the chopsticks and intended to eat, but nevertheless didn't take the face mask off. She just pulled the face mask upward slightly and revealed her beautiful lips.

With a sound of "Slurp", she started eating like that.

That's right. Qi Lin hated the smells to such an extent that she didn't take off the face mask even while eating. Therefore, she was afraid of being surrounded and watched while she was eating.

After all, such matters had happened occasionally. It would naturally arouse much curiosity to eat while she was wearing such a big face mask.

The normal conjecture was that, "This person is definitely sick."

Qi Lin had also seen other malicious speculations. It was acceptable to wear a face mask in winter, but in summer, it was more eye-appealing. Even in summer, she was wearing the airtight type.

In some small restaurants, the boss would have already asked about that. After all, if she was sick and besides, appeared so conspicuous, it would definitely affect the business of the boss. That was her personal experience after she started to wear the face mask three years ago.

The tastiness of the noodles need not be mentioned. "Slurp Slurp". Only when Qi Lin ate halfway did she remember to look around her, which had been another habit of hers due to her occupational disease.

However, there was no difference from the moment when she had just started to eat. Well, a little bit. The middle-aged man beside her had been replaced by a pretty girl.

When Qi Lin looked at her, the girl happened to turn her head back. Conveniently, she smiled to Qi Lin.

Qi Lin also smiled subconsciously. Only after the smile did she find she was still wearing the face mask. Therefore, she touched it with embarrassment.

"The noodles are going to turn cold." The pretty girl suddenly reminded.

"Oh, yeah. Thank you for your kind reminder." Then, Qi Lin

lowered her head and began to eat the noodles.

"It's so nice here." While eating the delicious noodles, she thought that with ease.

In fact, if the customers knew about Qi Lin's concern, they would probably tell her, "Don't think too much. We don't feel it strange at all. After all, even a customer full of blood on his face often comes here to eat."

Every time he came, Yuan Zhou handed a towel to him personally so that he could wipe himself clean before eating.

For that, Ling Hong even guessed that Yuan Zhou was so considerate because he didn't want the blood to drop into the bowl and affect the taste of the food.

Nevertheless, Qi Lin had no idea about that. But she was now relieved as no one even felt it strange with the way she had meals, which made her quite relieved.

"What a weird place! It makes people who usually don't feel strange feel strange. This place is also very nice. It makes people who usually feel strange don't feel that way." Qi Lin thought quietly.

The two hours of lunch time pass very soon. The presence of Qi Lin was only remembered by Zhou Jia.

It was Zhou Jia's habit to record the new customers every day.

"See you in the afternoon, Boss Yuan." Zhou Jia waved her hand and said goodbye.

"Um." Yuan Zhou nodded his head. Seeing Zhou Jia walk out of the door and disappear, Yuan Zhou started to tidy the azure stone countertop.

For a little while, there was only the sound of Yuan Zhou washing the dinnerware.

Not long after, however, Yuan Zhou broke the silence.

"Speaking of which, is that mission for the western-style food finished?" Yuan Zhou thought of the matter of one thousand foreigners.

The system displayed, "Not yet, Host."

[Mission completion status] 1000/799

"I notice there are occasionally some foreigners in my restaurant recently and thus thought it would be nearly completed." Yuan Zhou shrugged.

"Could you please show me that new mission?" Yuan Zhou thought of the interesting mission that he had just received and said that while cleaning.

The system displayed, "Ok."

[A chef's test]...

Chapter 396: An Interesting Mission

[Chef's test] The mission requires the host to cook a dish with only flavorings.

(Mission tips: The flavorings can be selected without formality. You can use various flavorings. Just develop your imagination, young man.)

[Mission reward] The ingredients can be selected and the price can be set as you like.

(Reward tips: Seldom is it open to choose. Host, please use your imagination well.)

"This mission looks so interesting." Yuan Zhou hung up the wet towel and then said with interest.

The system displayed, "The mission of the Chef's Test will be released at random. There is no time limit to complete that."

"Does this reward mean that as long as I succeed, you will provide ingredients for the dish like others?" Yuan Zhou asked carefully.

The system displayed, "Yes."

"Then what about the profit sharing?" The most concerned point was usually asked the last. Yuan Zhou said that quite indifferently.

The system displayed, "Same as other dishes."

"..." Yuan Zhou had hopefully thought the system wouldn't charge him any fees, like what it did for the Honey Tremella.

It was known to all that when he served this dish, Yuan Zhou had to spend much time on getting the number 1. After all, the pair of brother-sister siblings liked this dish very much.

"How long is the random occurrence?" Yuan Zhou found the test wasn't really difficult and was more like a funny game to improve his culinary skills.

The system displayed, "Uncertain."

"Sometimes, I feel that the introductions aren't from you, but a different person. They have a totally different tone." Yuan Zhou couldn't help ridiculing again.

The system displayed, "This system is always tolerant of unwise people."

"Thank you." Yuan Zhou answered habitually.

Only then did he see the system's answer clearly.

"Damn it. Are you saying that I'm stupid?" Yuan Zhou asked incredulously with his eyes widely open.

Then the system fell silent again.

"What a shame! It seems that I have been despised." Yuan Zhou looked at the word and thought.

"Forget it. I'm a magnanimous man. Better for me to think of the dishes now." Yuan Zhou suddenly thought of the Vegetable Stir-fried With Mushroom cooked that day and felt it was necessary to make another new dish to compensate the customers.

Yuan Zhou didn't intend to cook this dish anymore, unless he became the Master Chef one day.

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When one did something earnestly, time always passed quickly. In a twinkling of an eye, the pub time at night arrived.

It was rare for Yuan Zhou to be in the pub today.

"Boss Yuan, it's the very first time that I saw you in the pub ever since I came here to drink." A man with a bowl cut said happily, revealing his white teeth.

"Um. Hello." Yuan Zhou greeted him as usual.

"Hey-hey. My name is Meng Meimei and I know you are Yuan Zhou. So we are acquainted now." Meng Meimei scratched his

smooth bowl cut and said as if he had been very familiar with Yuan Zhou.

Su Mu laughed ironically at the side, "This guy is going to cheat others again."

"Elder bro, why?" Su Yuesheng asked with curiosity at the side.

"Now you see he's so easy-going. But after you drink several times with him, you'll know this person is way too stingy." Su Mu pointed at Meng Meimei immodestly and said.

"His name sounds good though." Su Yuesheng muttered.

"You won't say so if you know the two characters in his name." Su Mu shrugged.

"Which two characters?" Su Yuesheng opened her eyes wide curiously.

"Two characters of Dai(meaning air-headed) form the compound character of Mei." Su Mu said smilingly.

"Haw-haw. They turn out to be these two characters. So interesting." Looking at Meng Meimei now, Su Yuesheng remembered his name and felt it a little funny.

"Don't listen to your brother bullshit. I'm not stingy, but thrifty." Meng Meimei turned his head and explained to Su Yuesheng with a smile.

"Oh." Su Yuesheng covered her mouth and snickered. Meanwhile, she didn't forget to nod her head.

Yuan Zhou didn't really know how to deal with such kind of people, thus he just kept silent.

"Boss Yuan, you definitely agree with me since you aren't speaking. I know you don't talk much." Meng Meimei said considerately.

"Um." Yuan Zhou answered simply with a vague meaning.

"Boss Yuan, since we are so familiar with each other now, can you tell me when you are going to serve a new liquor, hard liquor. That would be so enjoyable." Meng Meimei walked close to Yuan Zhou smilingly.

"When the time is appropriate." Yuan Zhou answered like that as always.

Chen Wei had asked the same question for more than once, therefore Yuan Zhou answered very fluently and deftly.

"Boss Yuan, do you drink liquor?" Hearing the answer as such, Meng Meimei didn't feel discouraged but instead, started to ask something else.

"Sometimes." Yuan Zhou answered solemnly with his face tightly taut.

At that time, Yuan Zhou didn't actually know what expression he should reveal. After all, he really didn't know this person and thus could only reveal his conventional solemn face.

"Pa", Meng Meimei clapped his hands and said immediately, "In that case, Boss Yuan is supposed to understand the pleasure of a gulp of hard liquor followed by a mouthful of spicy beef. That is really something amazing."

"Chilli?" Yuan Zhou was suddenly inspired as if he had thought of something.

However, Meng Meimei was still saying something without stopping.

"Wait, wait. I suddenly think of a new dish and need to do some research." After Yuan Zhou said that, he immediately turned around and went downstairs without hesitation.

"Ah, has he thought of the new dish so quickly?" Meng Meimei first got dumbfounded and then said that while reaching out his hand toward Yuan Zhou.

"Haw-haw-haw-haw. See? You were rejected. I have already expected that you wouldn't get any answers by asking in that way." Su Mu burst into laughter.

"At least it is better than you." Meng Meimei put his arms down and humphed.

"Let's stop arguing. I'd rather drink my liquor. You are allowed to drink half a cup of liquor today." Su Mu said to his serious sister Su Yuesheng beside him.

"Ok, ok, ok. I got it." An obvious impatience appeared in Su Yuesheng's peach blossom eyes which resembled Su Mu's.

"Obey me and I will bring you here again in future." Su Mu stroked her soft hair on top of Su Yuesheng.

"Elder bro, why isn't that Ling Hong here?" Su Yuesheng asked curiously.

That's right. Of the three dining tables, one was occupied by Su Yuesheng and her brother, the second Meng Meimei and his friends and the last one two rugged men, who sat straight and appeared quite majestic.

Contrarily, Ling Hong, Wu Hai and Chen Wei weren't there.

"That guy is probably having fun with pretty girls." Su Mu said with an evil smile.

"Brother Ling Hong went to flirt with girls again." Su Yuesheng said unhappily while pouting her mouth.

"Haw-haw. Not this time. He is actually having a blind date." Su Mu couldn't help laughing when he said that.

Although a familiar person was gone, the atmosphere of the pub was still boisterous and leisurely.

Nevertheless, Yuan Zhou was thinking of what Meng Meimei had said just now and hence obtained some inspiration for the test.

"For the dish of that test, is there any time restrictions on the

sales?" Yuan Zhou inquired about that before he asked for the ingredients.

The system displayed, "Host, you can arrange it by yourself."

"That's good. Then, please provide the ingredients." Yuan Zhou revealed a faint smile and prepared to try the new dish that night.

While Yuan Zhou was developing his new dish, Ling Hong was also mentioning Yuan Zhou's restaurant at his end. However, it was done in a rather subtle manner.

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Chapter 397: Oil Fried Chili

Complete darkness had already fallen in Chengdu at 8:30 p.m. The sky was strewn with stars and it was a little cold on the streets outside. Passers-by were all wearing a coat and scarf. In this high-end restaurant, however, it was as warm as spring.

Almost all ladies wore a one-piece dress and revealed their white arms while men wore a thin shirt with two buttons undone to reveal their uninhibited temperament.

Not everyone in the restaurant was handsome and beautiful, but they all looked decent. The most beautiful lady was the one seated at the second table along the window.

The lady was wearing a bright pink mid-sleeve one-piece dress today with a small part of her white arms revealed. Without anything on the well-balanced legs, her skin seemed to be even paler with a tinge of red in contrast to the hemlines of the bright pink dress.

"Mr. Ling, what are your hobbies?" As soon as the lady spoke, she stared at Ling Hong with her watery eyes.

That's right. It was Ling Hong that was seated across the table and facing this beautiful lady.

Just as said by Su Mu, Ling Hong was here for a blind date today. And he was forced to come here.

It was arranged by his mother personally. If he didn't come, he would have to face his mother's nagging later.

Therefore, Ling Hong still came obediently in the end after weighing the gains and losses.

"My hobbies cover many fields. I like all kinds of extreme sports. Of course, I also like delicious food." Ling Hong undid a button, which made him appear more relaxed.

"You enjoy delicious foods. Then where do you usually go for meals and what delicious foods do you usually eat?" The lady asked without beating around the bush.

Actually, the lady was also reluctant to come. What a joke! Ling Hong was well-known for enjoying women and furthermore, he was a famous playboy. She was asking that now merely for being polite.

Five minutes ago, she went out and answered a phone call with the excuse of going to the bathroom.

The conversation was like this.

"Little Ding, what are the results of the investigation?" The voice of the lady sounded more relaxed, but still seemed gentle and melodious.

"Without a doubt, he likes luxury cars. Besides that, he just separated with his former girlfriend, or that may not even be considered to be his girlfriend... three days ago." It was difficult to tell whether it was a male or female from the voice on the other side of the phone.

"So he's another playboy." The lady concluded quickly.

"Yes. You had better be careful." The person instructed.

"Don't worry. I won't be taken in." The lady said in an affirmative tone.

"That's good." After that, the person hung off the phone.

"It's again a playboy." The lady sighed and then went back to her seat. Then, this conversation occurred.

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Having thought carefully for a while, Ling Hong said, "I ate steam buns this morning and Egg Fried Rice and Phoenix-Tail Prawns for lunch. Then here I am for dinner."

"These dishes are not complicated at all. Mr. Ling seems to be

very busy." The lady stroked her hair smilingly.

"Not too much. There is only a little bit of work in my company today." Ling Hong said courteously.

"Then what do you usually eat at normal times, Mr. Ling?" The lady continued asking.

"More or less the same to today. But I really like eating beef." Ling Hong shrugged. He didn't really care about the question.

"Mr. Ling, do you like the Kobe beef, Matsusaka beef or Ohmi beef?" All those that the lady reported were top-notch types of beef.

"None. I prefer to eat the Translucent Beef Slices." Ling Hong shook his head. Thinking of the Translucent Beef Slices served in Yuan Zhou's restaurant, he felt like drooling.

"Do you eat these dishes every day, Mr. Ling?" The lady was a little surprised, but she didn't say much. She just couldn't help ridiculing inwardly.

The Translucent Beef Slices was merely a cold dish. How expensive would it be? And the quality of the beef used was also needless to say.

"This playboy seems to be so pitiful. He surprisingly eats such ordinary dishes. There isn't anything wrong with Little Ding's information, is there?" The lady thought inwardly, without turning a hair.

"The dishes are extremely great. Sometimes, I can't even eat them when I'm busy." Ling Hong knitted his brows and then said, "Just being able to eat a bowl of Clear Broth Noodle Soup would be quite satisfying already."

After a slight pause, Ling Hong added, "With a Tea Egg and occasionally, a cup of watermelon juice."

After all, the watermelon juice and Tea Eggs were all provided

with limited quantities in Yuan Zhou's restaurant. Rich people weren't necessarily able to eat either of them.

The lady stared at Ling Hong for quite a while. When she found Ling Hong didn't appear to be lying, she couldn't help but say, "Mr. Ling, you are really living an austere life."

To speak bluntly, she always ate French dishes when she was out on tour. Never had she expected Ling Hong to eat so simply even if he was wealthier than her. To make matters worse, he had even felt it satisfying to eat a Tea Egg with watermelon juice. It was known to all that women were ashamed of eating Tea Eggs.

"I haven't seen such a man like you who holds back himself despite wealthy conditions."

The lady had used the word "hold back" to describe Ling Hong rather than thrifty. There was even a faint admiration in her tone. After all, she wouldn't have the courage to do the same.

"Well, it's alright." Ling Hong first felt puzzled and then he reacted.

He was looked down upon by others. However, Ling Hong didn't intend to explain it. Instead, he left the mistake uncorrected and made the best of it by speaking of the Clear Broth Noodle Soup along with the garlic that he ate usually, mentioning that the garlic can never be abandoned uneaten.

That made the lady mutter inwardly, "This guy isn't going to go bankrupt, is he?"

That's right. The lady was really suspicious about that in the end.

However, Ling Hong just tried to hold back his laugh and only burst into laughter after the lady left, "Haw-haw-haw. For the very first time, I am remarked by others as thrifty and diligent. It's really unprecedented. Interesting. I'm also a thrifty man now."

On the next evening...

Ling Hong came to Yuan Zhou's restaurant in the evening while drinking Su Mu's liquor.

"Boss Yuan, did you know I was about to tell a story and hence came out to hear it?" Ling Hong ridiculed Yuan Zhou with a smile.

"No." Yuan Zhou shook his head.

"Really? Then what for?" Ling Hong asked curiously.

"A new side dish will be served today. I'm here to see if anybody want it," Yuan Zhou said primly.

"Good. For such a big event, you don't even tell me even though I have stayed here for a whole day. Disciple Yuan, you really don't take me serious." Wu Hai pointed at Yuan Zhou and said in an exaggerated manner.

"Then, Disciple Wu, you haven't called me teacher yet." Yuan Zhou said back without any hesitation. Only after that did he suddenly react.

"No, you are not my disciple." There was conspicuous contempt on Yuan Zhou's face.

"What do you mean? Do you feel wronged by taking this famous young artist as your disciple?" Wu Hai yelled in exasperation.

"You are right." Yuan Zhou nodded his head immodestly.

"I almost lost control of my hot temper." Wu Hai stepped up immediately and wanted to beat him.

"Don't hit the face and hands." Ling Hong added in time.

"Why don't you do it after the new dishes are carried to us?" Fang Heng stopped Wu Hai and suggested.

"You are unable to beat me. I have abdominal muscles." Yuan Zhou said again without turning a hair.

"Ho Ho." Wu Hai looked at the not-so-strong body of Yuan Zhou with pride.

"The new dish is Oil Fried Chili." Yuan Zhou turned his head and started to speak of the proper subject.

"Sounds nice. What is it?" Su Mu stroked the corner of his eye.

"You don't even know that? It's definitely chili. Get a serving for us, please." When Wu Hai heard it was chili, he felt his former anger vanish.

"Also, one serving for us." Fang Heng didn't want to stay behind.

"One for us, too." A customer at the last table also uttered.

"Ok. One moment, please." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

"Shen Min, go to carry three servings of Oil Fried Chili." Yuan Zhou pointed at the countertop and said that.

"Ok, boss." Shen Min nodded her head and walked into the countertop quickly.

As expected, the plates were stacked neatly inside.

"Pa". Shen Min put the plates in the tray carefully and then carried them out.

"The plates are really beautiful." Jiang Changxi said with satisfaction while looking at the plates.

"Indeed." Su Mu also nodded his head.

The plates used by Yuan Zhou were certainly good-looking.

As a whole, the small plate was green with its edges corrugated. The green was darkest at the rim of the plate and turned lighter from outside in. In the middle of the plate were the bright red chilies, which appeared harmonious and beautiful.

"Old rules. Payment first." Yuan Zhou said lightly.

"I know. You are really a Compass." Fang Heng couldn't help laughing. Then he took out his phone and started to make the bank transfer.

"Thank you." Having received all the money, Yuan Zhou nodded

his head and thanked him.

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Chapter 398: Spiciness and Fragrance

"You are welcome. Just pass me the dishes." Fang Heng pointed at Shen Min's tray with a smile.

"Shen Min, serve the dishes now." Yuan Zhou turned his head and said to Shen Min.

"Ok, boss." Shen Min nodded her head tamely.

"Ta Ta Ta", Shen Min walked to the tables with light steps and started to place the new dish, Oil Fried Chili, on each table in turns.

"This shape is fairly unconventional." Fang Heng rotated the plate in his hand and said earnestly.

"What? Are you going to use it as a reference again when making yours?" Ling Hong turned his head and said ironically to Fang Heng.

"No, it won't happen. I'm just learning." Fang Heng didn't feel embarrassed at all, but instead said respectfully.

"You'd better concentrate on your wine diligently, especially when Boss Yuan hasn't started serving any hard liquor." Ling Hong's words didn't sound good, but were actually reasonable.

Fang Heng had improved the wine in his own pub since he lost his heart to the liquor here.

It was unrealistic to improve the taste of a wine in a short time. However, Fang Heng was a smart person. He learned to be as earnest as Yuan Zhou and also to replace the workers with pretty girls. Furthermore, they were not allowed to apply any scents and the wine could only be handled by one person.

According to Ling Hong, Fang Heng also studied the plate presentation from Yuan Zhou and paid more attention to cold dishes.

However, the taste was still not so good as that of Yuan Zhou's liquor. The only benefit was that the dishes looked more pleasing. And the improvement made by Fang Heng also obtained many compliments from his regular customers.

What Ling Hong said was naturally understood by Fang Heng. His Fang Family Pub mainly sold wine and the cold dishes were just a side business. Of course, he understood that and didn't really mind Ling Hong's sharp tongue. After all, where there is pressure, there is an improvement.

"Yes, of course." Fang Heng answered smilingly.

"Um. Good that you know it." Ling Hong postured while saying that.

"Why are you so shameless?" Wu Hai took a look of contempt at Ling Hong.

"An artist like you definitely doesn't know how a company business runs." Ling Hong said back directly.

"I don't need to know that." Wu Hai said lightly.

While the several people were talking heatedly, Jiang Changxi nevertheless started to eat the new dish together with Su Mu at the other side. Of course, the Drunkard's Peanut could never be abandoned.

"It's really like the lotus flower upon looking closely." Jiang Changxi took out her phone and straightforwardly took a picture of the new dish.

"It's indeed like that. This is the lotus leaf and the red chili is the lotus petals." Su Mu reached out his white and slender fingers and pointed at the dish while saying that.

"That's right. Now, this sister is going to eat it." Jiang Changxi picked up the chopsticks and started to eat.

"It's very spicy. Be careful." Su Mu said with a caring tone.

"Never mind." Jiang Changxi was fully confident.

"Ka Ca Ka Ca". Once the Oil Fried Chilli entered her mouth, the flour that wrapped the chili instantly became soft, which revealed the brown and crisp chili inside. Jiang Changxi directly bit it without hesitation.

Following the light sound of "Ka Ca", the chili was bitten into two parts. The fragrance of the crushed peanuts, wild pepper and the fried oil rushed straight into her mouth first followed by the strong and pungent spiciness.

"Hiss. How spicy this is!" Jiang Changxi said gently.

However, her mouth didn't stop. She was still eating ceaselessly.

"The more I chew, the more fragrant it becomes." Jiang Changxi chewed up every chili and ate it up carefully.

"How is it? Is it spicy?" Su Mu wasn't actually in a hurry. He just asked Jiang Changxi while looking at her.

"Pretty good. Although it tastes spicy, it's actually not only spicy but also fragrant. While the wild pepper stimulates the tongue, it also numbs it, which makes the feeling less noticeable. Most importantly, it's so fragrant." Jiang Changxi couldn't wait to pick another one and throw it into her mouth after she said that.

"You are so happy even while eating spicy dishes? Be careful not to get pimples." Su Mu dealt her a blow.

"Then you don't eat it anymore. Look at your smooth face. You still have to make a living with your beautiful face." Jiang Changxi said wittily instantly.

"No. I can take spicy foods very much. Even if there is a pimple, it won't affect my beauty, let alone that I still have my talents." Su Mu raised his eyebrows and then said deservedly.

Only when he found almost everybody had eaten the Oil Fried Chilli did Yuan Zhou say something.

"Whoever wants to drink hard liquor can drink some now." Yuan Zhou signaled to the customers the liquor on the table.

"Oh? Does it have this function?" Ling Hong got a shine in his eyes and savored it first.

"Hiss." In fear of the taste not being strong enough, he drank half a cup of the liquor extravagantly with one single gulp.

Instantly, his face went red and he knitted his brows.

"Don't open your mouth. Swallow it up." Yuan Zhou immediately uttered.

"Gu Dong", Ling Hong followed his instructions and really swallowed that up like that.

Quite a while later, Ling Hong breathed out.

"Hooo. This is so cool! The spiciness reaches my throat, then lungs and last, my heart." Ling Hong said that and afterwards looked at Yuan Zhou in surprise.

"Spiciness?" Su Mu looked at the liquor as clear and transparent as the pear juice and felt a little puzzled on thinking of its sweet taste.

"You'll know the taste by trying." Ling Hong took a deep breath two times continuously and then said to Su Mu.

"Interesting. Does it suddenly become a hard liquor?" Fang Heng carried up the wine cup with great interest.

"Anyone who can drink hard liquor can have a try." There wasn't any specific expression on Yuan Zhou's face, even if he was so proud that he was wagging his tail like Broth in his heart.

"I'm going to have a try now." Fang Heng prepared to try the liquor.

"Eat some Oil Fried Chilli before drinking." Yuan Zhou said quite considerately.

"How much should I eat?" Fang Heng asked curiously.

It was known that the Drunkard's Peanut provided in Yuan Zhou's restaurant also had the spicy and fragrant taste. When it went with the liquor, however, it didn't have that effect. Therefore, Fang Heng asked curiously.

"At least three pieces." Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

The event here even attracted Shen Min who was doing her homework earnestly over there.

"Then let me eat three first and then increase the number gradually." Fang Heng felt quite lucky that he was alone this time and didn't need to share it with others.

"Ka Cha Ka Cha", three Oil Fried Chilies were swallowed up by Fang Heng in several gulps.

Although there was the spiciness of the chili left in the mouth, the fragrance also lingered around. Fang Heng drank a small gulp of the liquor cautiously.

The originally soft and smooth liquor seemed to have undergone some unnoticeable changes instantly upon entering his mouth.

Immediately, a blast of spiciness rushed straight into his nose. Luckily, it was within the tolerance of an old drunkard like Fang Heng. However, he still couldn't help but intend to open his mouth to let go of the spicy flavor.

"Shut your mouth. Don't open it." Yuan Zhou's voice sounded suddenly.

Fang Heng shut his mouth subconsciously and straightforwardly gulped down the liquor.

He acted as if he had swallowed up a gulp of steaming-hot broth with an overwhelming spiciness that burned straight into his heart. Just when Fang Heng thought that he could no longer endure that, the spiciness suddenly became lighter and instantly,

the mellowness and sweetness of the liquor burst out.

It was like a good rain after a long drought in the dry desert, which made all pores on the body open.

"Awesome!" Fang Heng shouted.

"The liquor is so impressive. It's like a kind of very strong hard liquor in the martial art fictions at the start but, meanwhile, still tastes mild and smooth like Boss Yuan's bamboo liquor in the end. Awesome! Impressive!" Despite his usually gentle temperament, Fang Heng suddenly became bold and unconstrained.

"Please take your time and enjoy." Yuan Zhou carried a slight smile at the corner of his mouth.

Other drinkers that listened to them at the side couldn't hold back, either. They started to eat the Oil Fried Chili along with a gulp of liquor occasionally one after another.

Then, the fragrance of the liquor dispersed and the atmosphere became higher. A nice dish that goes with wine is also extremely important to a liquor.

Chapter 399: Ling Hong's Problem

"Good wine. Good wine. Excellent." Jiang Changxi drank up a full cup of the liquor and smacked the table, saying expansively.

"Unfortunately, Chen Wei isn't here today. Otherwise, it will be more boisterous." Su Mu didn't really like the hard liquor. He just sipped a little bit and then said with emotion.

"That's true." Fang Heng nodded his head approvingly.

"The liquor is both spicy and mellow, with two different tastes. It's so wonderful." Wu Hai gasped in admiration while taking the small wine cup.

"It has an everlasting taste when it's drunk in the winter." Fang Heng sipped again and sighed with emotion.

At that time, everyone in the pub was already red in face except Yuan Zhou and Shen Min. This was all caused by the hard liquor.

...

The matter that Yuan Zhou's bamboo liquor would turn into very hard liquor when it was drunk along with the new dishes served was soon made known to others. The most conspicuous thing was that Chen Wei brought quite a few disciples here to draw the lottery on the following day.

Chen Wei had never managed to draw the lottery before, even once.

"Good, you are really good. You'll be trained for another half an hour from tomorrow on." Taking a red ping-pong ball in his hand, Chen Wei patted on the shoulder of a new disciple of his and praised.

"Thank you, coach." The new disciple was a sunny youth. Once he smiled, he revealed his snow-white teeth.

"Tsk. New-born calves always make little of tigers. This reward is

so horrible." And old disciple said at the side, with lingering fear.

"I think so, too. That half an hour is as horrible as hell." The speaking trainees all trembled subconsciously.

"Luckily I didn't manage to make the draw." Another old trainee said thankfully as soon as he heard the reward.

"Haw-haw. Let's drink together tonight. I will treat you." Chen Wei said contentedly.

"Ok. Thank you, sir." The sunny youth became happier, thus the smile on his face became sunnier, too.

He had long known that dishes served in Yuan Zhou's restaurant were quite famous, however, he had never been here to eat before. After all, the prices were really not low.

While Chen Wei was going to pay for the liquor happily, Ling Hong that had already paid for it was accompanying a girl and strolling around the streets.

That's right, it was the girl from the former blind date who thought Ling Hong was very pathetic and might go bankrupt.

The girl's thoughts were very simple. Since Ling Hong was so frugal, in her opinion, it might be not bad to get along with him.

"It's going to be lunchtime soon. Shall we go for lunch?" The girl turned her head and said considerately.

"Pardon?" Ling Hong was originally in a daze. He answered habitually when he heard that.

"The steakhouse in front of us is fairly good. Dishes there are said to be quite tasty and they are recommended by Big Gourmand." The girl pointed at a western style restaurant in front of them and said.

The girl's EQ was very high. Everyone that had some slight knowledge of delicacies was clear about what Big Gourmand meant.

The Big Gourmand Recommendations of Michelin was for commending those restaurants that served superior dishes with moderate prices, namely, consumption per person less than 200 RMB, Basically, it was short for "high quality and inexpensive"

"I'd like to, but I'm sorry." Ling Hong never compromised himself to eat in a place where there were no delicious dishes. Such a recommendation as this one was not very attractive to him, let alone he didn't really go bankrupt.

"I have made another appointment at noon. I'm really sorry." After Ling Hong refused her, he explained with an apologetic tone.

"Alright. Let's make an appointment next time." The girl answered very cleanly.

"See you next time." Ling Hong stood still and saw her off and only then did he let out a sigh of relief.

"The Poor Childe? How interesting." Looking at the overcrowded restaurant recommended by Big Gourmand, Ling Hong shrugged and said with irony.

"I'm going to Boss Yuan's restaurant for my lunch." Ling Hong checked the time, turned around and prepared to go.

However, he took only two steps forward and then stopped.

The place where Ling Hong strolled around along with the girl wasn't really a special business street. It was actually a comprehensive place where the things weren't expensive and there was a residential area, a kindergarten and even a school for the deaf and the mutes beside.

What made Ling Hong stop walking was a person who came out from the school for the deaf and the mutes, a woman.

Coincidentally, this woman was known by Ling Hong. He didn't really know her much, but had actually seen her before, more than once.

"Isn't she the girl that flaunts her relationship with that shy man every day?" Ling Hong stroked his chin and muttered to himself curiously.

This girl was naturally not the only reason that made him stop, but the place where she came from and the matter that happened just now.

A four or five-year-old boy looking lovely and naughty was running forward when he was suddenly carried up and put aside by the girl.

After a careful observation, Ling Hong found there was a stone in the front. However, the boy didn't know that. He was just scared and stupefied.

The girl crouched down and looked straight at the boy. Then, she pointed at the stone in the front and then at her own throat with her hand.

The meaning was quite clear. There was a threat in the front, but due to the special reason, she had only to use such an abrupt way.

Due to her beautiful appearance presumably, the boy wasn't scared anymore and calmed down. Only then did he understand the girl's meaning and then said with an infantile voice, "Thank you, beautiful sister."

Then, the boy ran away along with the sound of "Ta Ta Ta".

"Interesting. It turns out to be so." Ling Hong turned around and then left. On the way back, he thought while stroking his chin.

Life is full of coincidences. When Ling Hong parked his car and came to the entrance of Yuan Zhou's restaurant, he bumped into that shy man, who was still looking around at the crossing and waiting for the girl.

"Time to line up. It's going to be time to get the number ticket." The warm prompt came from a member of the queuing committee.

"How lucky that I manage to come on time." Ling Hong pulled off the necktie and went up to stand still.

Waiting is boring. Besides, Ling Hong had his own purpose, therefore he uttered first.

"Speaking of which, I had a blind date. The girl is gentle, beautiful and generous as well as scrupulous." What Ling Hong said aroused much interest in others.

"Wow, does Young Master Ling also need a blind date?" Ma Zhida ridiculed him with an evil laugh.

"You are bringing disaster to a good girl." Wu Hai commented concisely.

"Hey Hey. Stop. I'm not here to listen to your criticism." Ling Hong said directly.

"I just want to ask about your standard of spouse selection. You know the China New Year's Day is coming. You'll have to cope with your parents' urging your marriage. " Ling Hong revealed an expression of "I'm kind-hearted, but you don't need to thank me for that".

"Like you said just now, of course. Gentle, generous and beautiful." Ma Zhida said immodestly.

"Let it be." Wu Hai said with an aloof manner while stroking his small mustaches.

"Whatever. As long as I have a girlfriend." The customers said one after another.

"I..." Wu Zhou was instantly interrupted just when he was about to say something.

"You don't need to say anything." The customers all said with one accord.

"It's definitely the discrimination against a married man." Wu Zhou said complacently.

Then, the customers all neglected Wu Zhou with one accord.

"What about you? What's your standard?" Ling Hong suddenly asked the shy man at the side.

"Me? Are you asking me?" The shy man grabbed his sleeves secretly and then said after Ling Hong nodded his head.

"Gentle, mild, good-tempered; 160cm or so; long hair without dye..." Once the shy man uttered, he described his ideal girlfriend as per the appearance of that girl.

"Then can you accept the other half of you having any defect, the kind on the body?" Ling Hong asked with interest.

"What? Does the other half of you has a defect and you like her but your family won't approve?" Wu Zhou imagined a melodramatic scene instantly.

"You are thinking too much." Ling Hong straightforwardly gave a supercilious glimpse at Wu Zhou, letting him guess the meaning by himself.

Ling Hong didn't actually care about what the other people chose, but he wanted to know what the shy man was thinking.

"I don't think I can accept that. I feel that since I'm healthy, I hope my other half can also be healthy and whole." Having thought for a while, the shy man answered earnestly.

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Chapter 400: Occupational Disease

After the shy man said that, others that lined up fell silent for a while. After some time, Ma Zhida uttered first.

"Your words seem to make some sense." Ma Zhida nodded his head and said earnestly.

"It does. If I'm alright, I naturally hope she could be normal, too." Even some other customers agreed to that.

"Um. So this is what you think." Ling Hong's word seemed casual, with yet some kind of deep meaning.

Only Wu Hai took a look at Ling Hong inexplicably while the others all changed the subject and talked about something else, naturally about women.

When it was almost the time to get the number tickets after a little while, the girl that the shy man had been waiting for arrived.

Just as usual, the shy man went to stand behind the girl swiftly when she started to line up.

There was an expression of bliss and pure happiness on his face.

The girl was still the same as before. No matter what the shy man said, she just stayed silent and smiled gently.

Fortunately, the shy man usually asked a question and answered it by himself, thus she didn't really need to answer.

Therefore, the chatting ability of the shy man was actually negative.

"Haw. It's so interesting." Seeing that, Ling Hong revealed an expression of interest on his cynical face.

"What an eccentric guy!" Wu Hai took a glimpse of contempt at Ling Hong.

"Everybody, the first twenty tickets are open to be taken. Please."

Zhou Jia walked to them and reminded loudly.

"Finally, it started. I'm almost dead from starvation." The first twenty customers became slightly relieved.

"Exactly. I feel like I'm able to eat an entire cattle." The customer stroked his belly and said earnestly.

"The problem is that Boss Yuan doesn't sell an entire cattle." The customer behind him couldn't help ridiculing.

"Yes, that's true." Others echoed smilingly.

Then, the subject was diverted again.

"Speaking of which, it seems that Boss Yuan's dishes never make people put on weight." A plump girl said with puzzlement.

"Absolutely. Speaking of that, I have never put on weight since I ate here." A slender girl said happily.

"I think it's purely because we can't eat our fill here but don't want to eat anything else." It was Wu Hai who answered this time. He said with a deep feeling.

"Order each and every dish on the menu and then you'll be full." The rich guy Ling Hong said.

"I would love to, but my thin wallet has tried its best to stop me." The slender girl touched her wallet and said with bitter hatred.

"You can never eat them again next time if you can't finish them by myself." Wu Hai looked at Ling Hong sneeringly.

"I can eat my fill after the dishes increase." Ling Hong answered quite complacently.

"Speaking of which, when will you serve a new dish, Boss Yuan? A mere meat dish is ok for me." Once Wu Hai entered the door, he said to Yuan Zhou.

"I have just served a new dish." Yuan Zhou revealed a quite earnest expression on his face.

What a joke! He was way too diligent.

"That's only a side dish. I'm talking about a meat dish." Wu Hai liked eating meat very much.

"Dongpo Pig Knuckle. You can eat it either hot or cold and you can order it anytime." Yuan Zhou pointed at the menu and appeared rather earnest.

Hearing that, Wu Hai instantly thought of Dongpo Pig knuckle as well as the feeling of the fat being not greasy and the lean melting upon entry the mouth with strong soysauce-like aromas.

"Get me a serving of Dongpo Pig Knuckle, please. Cold." Wu Hai swallowed the saliva calmly and ordered the dish.

"Ok. One moment, please." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

At that time, two people wearing face masks sat to the right of Wu Hai. Yuan Zhou stepped forward and took the order personally.

"What would you like to eat today?" Yuan Zhou asked.

Although he was wearing a face mask, his voice still passed to them clearly and precisely.

After all, anything provided by the system was definitely the best.

"We both want a bowl of Clear Broth Noodle Soup." They were two girls.

They all wore a big dark face mask that almost covered their face. The hollow voice passed from the face masks vaguely.

"Ok. Wait a while, please." Yuan Zhou nodded his head.

The scene at the moment was a little interesting. Yuan Zhou was wearing a face mask while the two girls facing him were also wearing face masks.

"How long would it be from the dish being cooked well to cool?"

Wu Hai suddenly asked.

"Ten minutes." Yuan Zhou said affirmatively.

"That's enough." When Wu Hai said that, he had walked to the door.

"He's definitely going to piss since he's in such a hurry." Ling Hong said with an affirmative tone.

"No. Brother Wu is definitely going to paint." Tang Xi retorted immediately at the side.

"He merely took you to see Yuan Zhou once. Do you really need to be partial to him?" Ling Hong took a look at Tangxi speechlessly.

"Humph. I'm going to eat and don't want to talk to you now." Tang Xi was originally a young girl and Ling Hong found it inappropriate to argue with her.

Nevertheless, the two face-mask girls that triggered Wu Hai's inspiration started to chat with the face mask still on them.

"How do you like it? It's good here, isn't it?" It was the girl who had been here twice that said that. Her voice was quite gentle.

"Yes. Thank you, Sister You." The girl who answered that sounded a little bit cute.

As they both wore the face masks and had short hair, it was difficult to distinguish them.

"Jiu Jiu, we can come here for meals later when we don't cook." The girl who was called "Sister You", namely the one that had been here twice, was a little taller.

"Ok. Are the dishes delicious?" Jiu Jiu smoothed her hair out with the fingers and still appeared a little nervous.

"Jiu Jiu, don't worry. No one here would feel that we are strange." When Sister You said that, she was rather confident and affirmative.

"Really?" Jiu Jiu glimpsed at the two sides secretly.

The customers were either eating or waiting to eat. And the waitress Zhou Jia wasn't looking at them, either.

Zhou Jia was busying greeting the customers or otherwise looking at Yuan Zhou earnestly, waiting to carry dishes.

"Now you believe me?" Sister You didn't stop her and just let her observe by herself.

"Um. Jiu Jiu nodded her head with more force this time and also looked more relaxed.

"We are not strange, actually. It's our job, instead." Sister You sighed.

"Yeah. The only thing is that we can get a high salary from the job as an odor-smelling master." Jiu Jiu was satisfied with the job, but was just worried about the adjunct questions brought by the job.

"You are right. Besides, there are not many people doing this job. That's why we look strange." Sister You thought for a while and continued saying.

"If there are as many odor-smelling masters like us as those white-collar workers in the office, the occupational disease of us disliking any scent would be as common as the low back pain and neck ache. It will be not so strange at all."

"Exactly. We are always in touch with the scents. After smelling so much, even fragrances start to stink." Jiu Jiu knitted her brows and complained.

Indeed. The odor-smelling master was mainly responsible for identifying some odors of unknown origin, which were unable to be distinguished even with instruments. Then, they will be needed to come and distinguish it.

For example, an enterprise discharged some bad gas, but the

measurement results of the instruments showed there was no harmful gas beyond the limit. Then, the method of smelling by the masters was used and in the end, they would judge if the gas was beyond the limit.

Because of the specialty of the occupation, the odor-smelling master was also well-known as the "nurse of air quality".

"This is our job." Sister You patted on the shoulder of Jiu Jiu and said that.

They had no other choices concerning the job but for a place like Yuan Zhou's restaurant to exist was really great for them.

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